AN

ESSAY

ON THE

National Debt, &c.

Price One Shilling.)

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A. Hooke

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A VIEW OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, MORE ESPECIALLY SCOTLAND; WITH SOME PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THAT COUNTRY, THE EXTENSION OF ITS FISHERIES, AND THE RELIEF OF THE PEOPLE.

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PREFACE.

HAVING been led, through curioſity, to view the rude magnificence of the Highlands of Scotland, my attention was ſoon attracted by the leſs pleaſing ſcenes of human miſery in all its ſhapes; unalleviated by the cheering rays of hope, or any of the comforts, which the lower ranks of mankind, inhabiting richer ſoils, enjoy in a certain degree. Succeeding journies over the various diſtricts of thoſe mountainous wilds, ſerved only to diſcloſe ſimilar diſtreſſes; and curioſity, the primary impulſe, gave way to ſerious inveſtigation. By hearing the complaints of thoſe unhappy people; by comparing their various relations with each other, and with my own obſervations; I was enabled to aſcertain thoſe facts which form the ground-work of the following narrative.

A tract of land, that compoſes a fifth part of Great Britain, appeared, with ſome few exceptions, to be in a ſtate of nature; a great body of people, and theſe the moſt virtuous in our iſland, dragging out a wretched exiſtence, periſhing through want, or forced by wild deſpair to abandon their country, their kindred, and friends, and to embark, moneyleſs and unknown, the indented ſlaves to unremitting toil and drudgery, in boundleſs deſerts, at the diſtance of 3000 miles.

The reſult of theſe obſervations, was an enquiry whether the improvement of the country, and the relief of the people, were practicable; to what extent

theſe objects could be carried; whether merely to ſoften local diſtreſs; or, in doing this humane duty, whether a permanent and valuable colony might not, at the ſame time, be eſtabliſhed in thoſe outſkirts of Britain, to the great benefit, and ſecurity, of the centre. But, ſuch was the diſpoſition of the times, that it ſeemed a uſeleſs labour and expence, to introduce the ſubject on either ſide of the Tweed. Some few lines, however, found their way to public obſervation, wherein the fidelity and bravery of the Highlanders were applauded, and the utility of permitting them to reſume their favourite dreſs was warmly recommended.

Thus ſtood matters, when a train of events, the moſt unexpected and humiliating, contributed, in the operation and conſequences, to exhibit, more than ever, the value of the Highlanders, and the importance of the country which gave them birth.

Emboldened by theſe conſiderations, and ſeeing no regular plan of policy propoſed, relative to that country, I arranged, in 1782, the various memorandums which I had been collecting during a ſeries of years; ſtated the diſtreſſes of the people, and the cauſes of theſe diſtreſſes; attempted the outlines of a plan whereby ſome inconveniencies would be removed, others mitigated, the country improved, the fiſheries and nurſery for ſeamen greatly extended; and reſolved, in humble deference, to lay the ſame before the public.

I have, throughout the whole, avoided all chimerical theories, and tireſome conjectures, founded merely upon report, or collected from the very erroneous repreſentations of old writers. It was my wiſh to propoſe a plan, adapted, in all its parts, to the natural ſtate of the country, the genius, qualifications, and relative ſituation of the inhabitants; practicable, expedient, and within the abilities of government.

Theſe obſervations were printed in the Spring 1783; ſince which time, ſome ſheets have been privately circulated in both kingdoms, in the hope that gentlemen of rank or influence would lay the ſame before adminiſtration

miniſtration, as a ſtimulus to objects of greater importance to the ſtrength and opulence of this iſland than is generally imagined. During a journey through part of Scotland in the Summer 1783, I was fully convinced that the calamitous ſituation of the Highlands had not been miſrepreſented in the narrative, and it was from the affecting relations of the people, that I drew up and annexed ſome particulars reſpecting the famine, which had not then fully ſubſided.

The SECOND PART, or APPENDIX, while it ſerved to eſtabliſh the foregoing propoſitions, afforded alſo an opportunity of introducing ſundry remarks, which did not fall within the general heads of the pamphlet. The ſhores, ſeas, and lakes, of the Highlands had been fully deſcribed, becauſe theſe are, or ought to be, the firſt object of public attention. Secondary to this national concern, is the improvement of the vallies; and a ſhort topographical account of thoſe tracts of fertility, in the manner of an itinerary, was deemed the moſt ſatisfactory mode of conveying information to the reader *.

Many of the arguments, which had occurred in treating of the Highlands, ſeemed applicable to Scotland in general. This opened a new, and more extenſive field of enquiry. If the revolt of ſome colonies, the conqueſt of others, and the then apparent danger of loſing the remainder, gave thoſe neglected wilds additional conſequence, the improvement of the kingdom at large appeared equally expedient. The ſame idea admitted of being extended even to England itſelf, a country more indebted to nature, and the induſtry of individuals, than the attention or aſſiſtance of its government, as will evidently appear to any perſon who ſhall take the trouble of conſidering the matter in a general view.

* The improveable parts of the Highlands and Weſtern Iſles are, as one to four of the whole, or one 20th part of Great Britain; containing collectively above 2500 ſquare miles, or 1,600,000 ſquare acres; being the dimenſions of Middleſex, Surrey, and Kent united.

Thus the whole iſland ſeems to have been, in a greater or leſſer degree, neglected, and its real intereſts ſacrificed to expenſive ſchemes of conqueſt and empire, which, without effecting any valuable purpoſe, have brought it to the verge of ruin and bankruptcy.

There are, however, many perſons, who, notwithſtanding that the events, and conſequences, of the late war, have diſarranged the old deluſive ſyſtem of politics, and ſhown its inefficacy, ſtill adhere to opinions, which cannot be defended on any principle of juſtice, humanity, or national expediency.

To ſuch perſons particularly I have, with greater zeal than abilities, addreſſed the following ſketches relative to the ancient and preſent ſtate of Great Britain, being fully convinced, that the objects of the greateſt value to ſociety may be obtained at leſs expence of treaſure, and without involving the innocent multitude in the complicated, undeſcribable diſtreſſes of war.

Some of the tables, calculations, or eſtimates, are inſerted from authentic documents; others, upon miſcellaneous authorities; and ſome upon probable conjecture. Any errors that may have eſcaped notice, amidſt ſo many figures, will be corrected; the ſame attention will be given to any miſtakes in opinion, ſo ſoon as they ſhall be diſcovered, or pointed out.

The writer muſt diſclaim any pretenſions to literary embelliſhments, grounding his hope of approbation, merely on the application, fatigues, and expence, which have been unavoidable through every ſtage and department of the buſineſs; and if any of the grievances, ſtated in theſe pages ſhall be redreſſed or mitigated, he alſo will derive additional ſatisfaction, in the feelings of his own breaſt.

RICHMOND, SURRY,
April 1784.

INTRO

INTRODUCTION.

IMMODERATE ambition, the love of empire, or the thirſt of wealth, have moſt generally influenced the councils of nations, whether civilized, or in a ſtate of rude barbarianiſm. To ſuch ignoble motives, is owing that endleſs ſeries of wars, devaſtations, and robberies, which, inſtead of giving ſtability to the conquering ſtate, hath invariably haſtened its fall. Of this truth, the hiſtory of mankind abounds in examples. All thoſe potent empires which ſucceſſively governed the ancient world, had their riſe, their meridian, and their decline. By violence they acquired extenſive dominion; the ſame means became neceſſary to maintain, or defend, that dominion; till at length, ſome neighbouring ſtate, or combination of ſtates, equally aſpiring, ſubverted the whole fabric of power, which they transferred to themſelves, which they for a while retained, and which they in their turn loſt, together with their freedom, and their name. So complete hath been the extinction of thoſe ſtates, that, were it not for the Sacred, and ſome remains of prophane writings, corroborated, were it neceſſary, by inſcriptions, medals, ſtatues, and ruins of ſtupendous architecture, which have reached our times, we could have no conception that ſuch mighty empires ever exiſted.

Our own iſland, though capable of ſupplying its inhabitants in all the real neceſſaries of life, beſides a ſurplus wherewith to carry on a beneficial traffic with

with its neighbours, hath long been convulſed through the phrenzy of conqueſt, both within itſelf, and beyond thoſe limits which nature marked out as its proper boundary. As Britain is an epitome of the world, ſo are its annals, in all reſpects, ſimilar to thoſe of the great theatre by which it is environed.

No ſooner had the ſucceſſors of the Norman hero eſtabliſhed themſelves firmly on the throne of England, than they began to contemplate new ſchemes of conqueſt, whereby their dominions might be enlarged, and their power raiſed above that of their cotemporaries.

The object of thoſe deſigns was nothing leſs than the ſovereignty of France, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales: and it is ſcarcely in the power of language to convey a full idea of the calamities which thoſe princes entailed upon mankind, through a ſucceſſion of ages, in the proſecution of their ambitious ſchemes of aggrandiſement. The burden of thoſe wars fell particularly on Scotland, and the northern counties of England, owing to the obſtinate reſiſtance of the Scots; who, during a period of ſixty years, not only defended their freedom with ſingular bravery, but alſo carried the war into England itſelf, where they abundantly retaliated the violences which had deſolated their country. The effects of thoſe mutual inroads are ſtill viſible on the borders of both kingdoms; and it will require ſome ages before cultivation, manufactures, and population, can be brought to an equality with the interior parts.

In return for the continual drain of money, the waſte of blood, and all the inconveniencies which a hoſtile nation muſt unavoidably ſuſtain, both at home and abroad; England at the preſent period poſſeſſes nothing more than the ſovereignty of the ſmall country of Wales, and the town of Berwick upon Tweed. Thus all the expenſive armaments, and ſplendid victories of thoſe warlike monarchs, whoſe names are mentioned with admiration by every Engliſhman, ſerved only to impoveriſh their ſubjects, and deſolate

their

their country, which was ſo greatly reduced by thoſe exertions, that, had not the ſea proved a barrier of defence, it muſt have become a province to the kingdom which it had long ſtruggled to ſubject.

But though the projects of the middle ages were barbarous in their object, calamitous in their operation, and deluſive in the ſequel; yet this nation, inſtead of reprobating the deſtructive meaſures of their anceſtors, hath conſiderably improved upon them.

It was left to the æra of the Revolution to deviſe an engine, by which we might not only deſtroy, and be deſtroyed, upon the European continent; but alſo enabled to extend the calamities of war to every quarter of the world. Of all the inventions for the deſtruction of the human ſpecies, this hath proved the moſt effectual; neither can the moſt fertile imagination propoſe a method, whereby a commercial nation may, with greater expedition and facility, tranſfer its trade and manufactures, to its rivals in arts and arms. This device is called *Funding*; or in other words, anticipating the property of poſterity, without conveying to that poſterity any permanent equivalent, whereby it may diſcharge the burdens thus ungenerouſly entailed upon it, as will appear by the following retroſpective view of events from the Revolution in 1688, to the preſent time.

Sketch of the Britiſh Politics and Wars from the Revolution to the year 1784, *including the Origin and Progreſs of the national Debt—Diſmemberment, and rapid Fall of the Empire—Perilous Situation of Government, and the Nation in general—War, the cauſes of our own diſtreſſes, and thoſe which we have brought upon a conſiderable part of mankind.*

When William prince of Orange aſcended the throne of theſe kingdoms in 1688, his cotemporary, Lewis XIV, at the head of a gallant nation, panting after military fame, was meditating the eſtabliſhment of the French monarchy over Europe, a project

which gave riſe to a general confederacy, who choſe William as their generaliſſimo, or commander in chief, againſt the common enemy.

That war was carried on with various ſucceſs during eight years, when a general peace was concluded at Ryſwick, without any material benefit to either of the contending parties; and England, at the death of king William in 1701, found itſelf involved in *The firſt national debt*, which amounted to the then unheard-of ſum of £. 16,000,000

Queen Anne reſumed the war with redoubled vigour, wherein the allies, under the command of prince Eugene and the duke of Marlborough, gained many brilliant victories, but could not prevent Lewis from fixing his grandſon upon the throne of Spain, which laid the foundation of the family alliance or compact, that ſtill ſubſiſts, though faintly, between theſe kingdoms. On the other hand, the events of war put England in poſſeſſion of Gibraltar and Minorca in the Mediterranean; and the French ceded Newfoundland and Hudſon's Bay, in North America; alſo the ſole poſſeſſion of the iſland of St. Chriſtopher's in the Weſt Indies. The treaty of peace was concluded at Utrecht in 1713. And the national debt, ſoon after the death of the queen in 1714, had been increaſed, by the war, to the alarming ſum of 55,000,000

Debt, at the commencement of the war in 1740, after a peace of twenty-ſeven years 46,000,000

At

At that time, England again embarked in a war with Spain, on account of America; and, ſoon after, with France, in ſupport of the queen of Hungary. Many battles were fought by ſea and land, with various ſucceſs; and in 1748 a peace was concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle, the baſis of which was the reſtitution of all places taken during the war, by either of the parties, but which increaſed the debt of England —	32,000,000
Debt, at the end of the war in 1748	78,000,000
Reduced in 1755, after a peace of ſeven years - - -	3,000,000
Debt, at the commencement of the war in 1755 - -	75,000,009
Before Great Britain had been able to reduce a tenth part of the debt occaſioned by the preceding war, ſhe was called upon, by her American colonies, to arm in their defence, againſt the encroachments of the French on the back ſettlements; and here we have the origin of the moſt extenſive war, as Lord Chatham termed it, in which England had ever been engaged. It was alſo the moſt glorious to this country, both by land and ſea, and put us in poſſeſſion of Canada, and the two Floridas, in America; Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago, in the Weſt Indies; but involved us in a freſh debt of - -	71,000,000
Debt, at the end of the war in 1763	146,000,000
Reduced in 1775, after a peace of twelve years, - - -	10,000,000
Debt, at Midſummer 1775 -	136,000,000

While England was exhauſting itſelf in eſtabliſhing and protecting the American colonies, the idea of impoſing a ſlight taxation, ſuitable to the abilities of thoſe colonies, had been ſuggeſted during the adminiſtration of Sir Robert Walpole; but that ſagacious ſtateſman declared, that he would leave the colonies as he had found them, and that his ſucceſſors might have the honour of firſt opening this new ſource of revenue. After the peace of 1763, the expediency of American taxation gained ſtrength, in proportion to the alarming increaſe of the debt contracted in the acquiſition of Canada, when the French power was totally annihilated in that part of the continent, and when every impediment that tended to obſtruct the growing wealth of the colonies had been removed. The experiment was made during the adminiſtration of George Grenville, by a ſlight tax on paper uſed in deeds, called *The Stamp Act*. It occaſioned univerſal fermentation throughout America, and was repealed by the Marquis of Rockingham. A ſucceeding adminiſtration unfortunately reſumed the meaſure of American taxation, by a duty upon tea, of no more than three pence per pound. This impoſition the people of America alſo rejected, threw the tea overboard, and flew to arms; the event of which was, the entire ſeparation of that country, now the Thirteen States, from Great Britain, which thereby loſt, not only the ſovereignty over its hereditary colonies, but the excluſive trade of thoſe colonies, that is now laid open to all mankind. Theſe unfavourable circumſtances involved us alſo in a general war with the principal maritime powers of Europe, of whom we purchaſed peace, by acknowledging the American independence, and ceding to thoſe ſtates the richeſt part of Canada; to Spain, Minorca and the two Floridas; to France, the valuable iſland of Tobago in the Weſt Indies; Goree, and Senegal, on the coaſt of Africa; beſides the reſtitution to the latter kingdom, of St. Lucia, and all places which we had taken during the war in the Eaſt Indies; circumſtances

extremely

extremely humiliating to the dignity of the Britiſh name, fatal to her reputation, and injurious to her commerce. This was not all. The national debt, which, at the commencement of the war in 1775, was 136,000,000l. had increaſed at Midſummer 1783 to 257,000,000l. To this is to be added the deficiencies in ſundry taxes; the arrear, in winding up the war, and other miſcellaneous expences not yet fully known; but, when brought to account, and funded, will amount to ſeveral millions.

If this eſtimate be juſt, we ſhall perceive that the loſing of America hath doubled the national debt; and conſequently doubled the burdens of the people.

Total amount of debt (ſuppoſing the whole to be funded), which will be owing to the creditors of the public, at Midſummer 1784 -	272,000,009
The annual intereſt of ditto, including the expence of management, will be nearly	10,000,000
——— ditto per day 27,397l.	
The peace eſtabliſhment, including the civil liſt, above	5,000,000
To be raiſed by the public annually	£. 15,000,000
——— ditto per day 41,096l.	
Neat amount of the annual national revenue, ariſing from cuſtoms, exciſe, taxes, &c. copied from authentic records produced in the houſe of commons Jan. 1783, £. 12,000,279. Additional taxes June 1783, eſtimated at 560,000l.	12,560,279
Surplus of the annual expence, above the annual revenue, for which additional taxes muſt be levied, or ſavings appropriated *	2,439,721

Pre-

* The earl of Stair's eſtimate of the annual expenditure is ſtill more alarming, viz.	£. 16,229,311

And

Previous to the year 1775, the annual revenue in time of peace generally exceeded the annual expence, and the ſurplus was carried to the ſinking fund; or, in other words, applied towards diminiſhing the public debt. While matters were carried on in this happy train, the nation enjoyed a ray of hope: in proportion as the debt was reduced, in the ſame proportion the revenue was augmented; inſomuch that a forty years' peace would have brought the whole public burdens within a convenient compaſs, beſides enabling us to lower the price of proviſions, to unfetter our commerce, and to face our enemies, boldly, in whatever quarter of the world they might, at any time, have been diſpoſed to moleſt our trade, or attack our ſettlements.

Unfortunately, theſe promiſing appearances have almoſt inſtantaneouſly vaniſhed: a fatal period, of ſeven years only, hath thrown us back above a century. Though the land tax be now unalterably eſtabliſhed at four ſhillings or upwards, in the pound; though the revenue hath recently been augmented by a multiplicity of new taxes, ſome of them reaching the cabbin, and the garret; the induſtrious labourer, the widow, and the helpleſs; yet, with the aid of all theſe unprecedented exertions, the aggregate of the preſent revenue falls ſhort, by more than two millions, of the annual expenditure conſequently, the lands, the moveable property, and the commerce of this kingdom, ſtand mortgaged in the proportion of one ſixth of what they now riſe.

And he affirms, that the neat annual revenue of this country can never be brought for a permanency, and average of years, to exceed	12,000,000
Annual deficiencies, to be made good by new taxes,	4,229,311

The above eſtimate of the annual expenditure was made upon the ſuppoſition that the war laſted through the year 1783, which, happily, it did not; for, it is now certain, that it would have anſwered no other purpoſe than loading the nation with 25 additional millions, including the expence of funding, and conſequently, a proportionable increaſe of taxes.

But

Moreover, ſhould any of the given branches of revenue fall ſhort of the average annual eſtimates, ſuch deficiencies muſt alſo be made good by extra-taxation, or the public creditors muſt ſuſtain a proportionable loſs. It is a ſituation which admits of no other alternative, and is equally alarming to the proprietors of land, and the proprietors of ſtock. Their property depends, more or leſs, upon contingencies; on the elements, the ſeaſons, the events of war, the integrity and abilities of thoſe who ſhall be entruſted with the management of public affairs.

Peace with all the world, and that for a long continuance, is therefore our only hope, and ought to be the ardent wiſh of every friend of his country, and of humanity. For almoſt a century paſt *, England hath dazzled the eyes of mankind with the brilliancy of its campaigns in Flanders, and Germany; in ſecuring the Dutch barrier; ſupporting the houſes of Auſtria, and Brandenburg. But though one hundred millions have been thus ſpent in continental wars and ſubſidies, neither the Dutch, nor the Germans, came forth, in defence of their benefactors, whom they ſaw engaged, in the unequal ſtruggle, that diſmembered the Britiſh empire.

Beyond the Atlantic, we ſhall perceive a ſtill greater drain of Engliſh treaſure. The money granted by parliament in bounties, towards encouraging the growth of American produce; the ſums expended in ſupport of the civil eſtabliſhments of thoſe colonies during their infant ſtate; in defending them againſt the French and Indians; erecting forts, harbours, and other public works; have been raiſed by the ſubjects of theſe kingdoms only, while other nations now reap the fruits equally with ourſelves, if not more ſo.

Upon the whole, we may fairly eſtimate our diſburſements in eſtabliſhing, protecting, and loſing the

* The years of peace ſince the Revolution 55
——— of war ——— 41
96

Ame-

American colonies, at two hundred and ſixty millions ſterling. In this eſtimate we include the whole expence of the two late wars; for, tho' the operations of theſe wars extended to every quarter of the globe, yet the expence ought properly to be placed to the account of that country for which we engaged, or were involved, in both wars.

Gibraltar, and Minorca, have been in our hands near eighty years, and we cannot value the peace eſtabliſhment at leſs than half a million per annum.

In this eſtimate we include the military expence of 6 or 7000 troops; ſtores; hire of tranſports; erecting new batteries, and otherwiſe ſtrengthening the works. Conſequently, the keeping and defending a barren rock, with an indifferent harbour; a poor, unprofitable iſland, with a good harbour, have coſt near forty millions, ſince the years 1704—8, when they were annexed to the Britiſh crown *.

Recapitulation of money expended by Great Britain in foreign parts, ſince the Revolution.

On German affairs . .	100,000,000
—— American ditto . .	260,000,000
—— Gibraltar and Minorca .	40,000,000
	£. 400,000,000

Being above £. 4,000,000 every year, and for which we poſſeſs no adequate conſideration, no excluſive, permanent ſource of trade; but which, on the contrary, hath enhanced the price of manufactures, endangered our commercial intercourſe with mankind, and deprived the nation of the comfortable, unmoleſted enjoyment of thoſe gifts, which nature hath ſo liberally provided for all ranks and denominations of the inhabitants.

The ſum total raiſed by Great Britain within the ſame period exceeds £. 750,000,000; of which, above £. 220,000,000 have actually been paid for the

* See a pamphlet, entitled "The Propriety of retaining Gibraltar Impartially conſidered."

intereſt

intereſt of public debts; and, of this, a conſiderable part, ſuppoſed to be at preſent £. 1,000,000 annually, was drawn out of the kingdom by foreigners.

If, to the £.750,000,000 collected from the inhabitants by taxation and duties, we add the various inconveniencies, interruptions, loſſes, and extra expences, ſuſtained by the merchants, and the Eaſt-India Company; the manufacturers, and other individuals, during our late wars, the aggregate amount will not fall greatly ſhort of £. 1000,000,000, within the ſpace of ninety-ſix years, or £. 10,416,670 per annum. Such were the vaſt reſources drawn from the natural produce of the iſland, the ingenuity, induſtry, and commerce of the people; and ſuch alſo have been the impolitic obſtructions and burdens laid upon that commerce, and thoſe people.

Still more painful in the recital, is, the dreadful eſtimate of lives loſt in battle, by ſhipwreck, and other accidents of war. Unhappily for the human ſpecies, the conflicts in which we engage, are not confined to France and England only. Whenever theſe rival kingdoms commence hoſtilities, they draw, into the deſtructive quarrel, a conſiderable portion of mankind, not only in Europe, but over a great part of the habitable world.

The ſavages of America, armed with their horrid inſtruments of death, march out with frantic rage, and frightful ſhrieks, eager, as their war ſongs expreſs it, to drink the blood of Engliſhmen, or Frenchmen, againſt whom they happen to be reſpectively led on, by either of the contending parties.

In the Weſt Indies, the ſugar iſlands are kept in continual alarm, ſubduing, and being ſubdued, alternately. Property is continually fluctuating; and the man who reckoned upon thouſands to-day, ſees himſelf a beggar on the morrow.

In Aſia, the calamities occaſioned by our national quarrels are ſtill more complicated and diſtreſſing. Throughout the whole ſouthern diviſion of that immenſe country, every ſhore, every ſea, and navigable river,

river, becomes hoſtile. The princes of thoſe regions, though they have no natural concern in European diſputes, are not permitted to remain neuter. They are induced by threats, bribery, or intrigue, to act as auxiliaries in the armies of foreign invaders, and as principals againſt each other. Thus, their unhappy ſubjects are involved in a double war; mutual retaliation of injuries lays whole provinces waſte, ſparing neither age, ſex, nor condition. The lives, the property, and whatever is valuable to mankind, are ſacrificed to the quarrels of nations who live at the diſtance of 8000 miles.

The lives thus cut off, in various parts of the globe, ſince the Revolution, cannot be fewer than a million of Britiſh ſubjects, and European allies, beſides the Aſiatic liſt, amounting to near four millions of induſtrious, inoffenſive inhabitants, killed, or ſtarved *; and, if to theſe accounts we add the loſſes on the part of our rival, and her allies, we may fairly eſtimate the whole to be ſix millions of people, who have fallen ſacrifices to war and famine, in all their horrible ſhapes, and for which theſe kingdoms are, in a great meaſure, reſponſible; for, it is a truth, which cannot be refuted, that to their unbounded thirſt of power, dominion, and commercial eſtabliſhments, hath been chiefly owing this waſte of the human ſpecies, beſides the calamities ſuſtained by the ſurvivors of theſe deſolating ſcenes, abroad; while, at home, the train of diſtreſſes which war entails upon many individuals, and families, exceeds all conception; and, were their reſpective caſes brought into view, it would fill the ſtouteſt heart with horror. Deprived of huſbands, parents, ſons, or brothers; reduced, at the ſame time, from eaſe and affluence, to indigence, and all the mortifications of dependence, is the lot of thouſands;

* See an account of the famine in Bengal 1769, 70, as publiſhed throughout Europe by the Abbé Raynal. See alſo Dodſley's Annual Regiſter, vol. XIV. page 205. And, for a general view of the Britiſh tranſactions in Bengal, ſince it became a part of our empire, ſee Burke's Speech, Dec. 1, 1783.

who

who, friendleſs, unnoticed, or deſpiſed, bewail in ſilence the loſs of whatever was valuable, or endearing in the world.

Epidemical contagion, and the convulſions of nature, are calamities which we can neither foreſee nor prevent; but the flames of war were kindled by ourſelves; the ravages which they occaſioned were our own act and deed; nor doth it appear, that the events, even of the moſt fortunate wars, have reimburſed the nation, for a permanency, in any part of the expence and loſſes unavoidably ſuſtained by thoſe wars. Our conſolation, on the contrary, generally conſiſted in the pitiful reflection, that our enemies were alſo maimed, exhauſted, and almoſt reduced to bankruptcy. This hath been the winding up of all our wars; leaving us in the poſſeſſion of no territory beyond our own iſland, which may not be wreſted from us before the expiration of half a century.

Review of the Colonies and Settlements which ſtill compoſe a part of the Britiſh empire, with an eſtimate of the exports and imports to, and from, England. Alſo, the exports and imports, to, and from, the revolted Colonies.

America. The Britiſh America conſiſted of two great diviſions, the ſouth, and the north; the former, luxuriant in ſoil and climate, populous, commercial, and flouriſhing; its produce wheat, tobacco, rice, indigo, timber, flax, iron, pitch, tar, and lumber. This diviſion contains 2,000,000 of inhabitants, who have formed themſelves into 13 republics, independent of Great Britain, and of one another, now called *The United States of America.* The latter diviſion, a cold, inhoſpitable, and thinly-inhabited country; its fields covered with deep ſnow, and its rivers froze up from November till April, which cuts off all ſocial and commercial intercourſe with Europe.

This diviſion was retained, by Great Britain, at the late peace. The habitable part joins the American States, and was originally in the poſſeſſion of the French, to whom it proved an expenſive, unprofitable burden. It hath been no leſs ſo to Great Britain, but it is ſuppoſed to be very improveable. It is formed into two governments; thoſe of Canada, and Nova Scotia. *Canada* is properly the native country of furs, peltry, and other articles which enter largely into the Britiſh manufactures. It alſo furniſhes grain, timber, pot-aſh, and hath valuable iron mines. This province, bounded on the north by frozen deſerts, on the weſt by unknown countries, is only acceſſible to European ſhipping by the river St. Lawrence, whereon ſtand Quebec, Trois Rivieres, and Montreal.

Nova Scotia derives great importance from its local ſituation, and its harbours, particularly Hallifax, Annapolis, and Port Roſeway, the ſafeſt and moſt capacious in North America; the centre of northern navigation; a ſhelter to ſhipping from all parts of thoſe ſeas, during the hurricanes, or when the other harbours are frozen up; and here alſo veſſels of any burden may be repaired. In a political view, Nova Scotia is the moſt valuable of all the Britiſh ſettlements in the weſtern hemiſphere, becauſe on this province depends, in a great meaſure, our poſſeſſion of the fur trade, the Newfoundland fiſheries, and the Sugar Iſlands.

The Weſt Indies. By the Weſt Indies is underſtood thoſe innumerable iſlands which lie between the two continents of America, to which diviſion of the globe they properly belong. They were diſcovered near 300 years ago by Chriſtopher Columbus, in the ſervice of Spain, and have ſince been ſhared, thro' force or treaty, by France, Great Britain, Denmark, and Holland. Of theſe iſlands, Great Britain poſſeſſes Jamaica, Barbadoes, St. Kitt's, Antigua, St. Vincent, Dominica, the Grenades, and ſome others of inferior importance;

portance; from whence we import ſugar, rum, cotton, coffee, ginger, pepper, guaiacum, ſarſaparilla, machineel, mahogany, indigo, gums, and other valuable articles.

Coaſt of Africa. The ſouthern coaſt of Africa was diſcovered by the Portugueſe in that adventurous age which firſt carried the Europeans to the American world. Beſides ſupplying the Weſt Indies with ſlaves, it produces gold duſt, ivory, gums, and other articles, far too valuable to be engroſſed by the Portugueſe alone: conſequently the Engliſh, French, and Dutch, have taken a ſhare of this commerce alſo. Each nation hath its reſpective forts at the entrances of the principal rivers, but the unhealthineſs of the climate prevents the eſtabliſhment of colonies.

Eaſt Indies. The Portugueſe gradually extended their diſcoveries along the coaſt of Africa, till at length they arrived at the moſt ſouthern promontory of that quarter of the globe, which, in their joy, they called *The Cape of Good Hope.*

This diſcovery opened, unexpectedly, a new tract to the Eaſtern ſhores of Africa; to Perſia, Arabia, the Mogul empire, China, Japan, and the numerous Spice Iſlands of the Indian ſeas. Here the Portugueſe erected a commercial empire at the expence of the unhappy natives, on whom they practiſed all the frauds, violences, and outrage, which their Chriſtian brethren of Spain were carrying on, with unrelenting barbarity, in the weſtern world.

The great wealth which the Portugueſe brought into Europe, while they enjoyed the monopoly of the Indian commerce; the report of their civil and religious tyrannies; the impatience of the natives to throw off the intolerable yoke, began to engage the attention of other European ſtates, particularly the Dutch, who, with the aſſiſtance of the natives, expelled the oppreſſors of India from almoſt every ſettlement, which the Dutch ſeized for themſelves, and thus eſtabliſhed a new, and more permanent power, becauſe founded on juſtice and moderation, towards the people over whom they preſide.

The Engliſh wiſely contented themſelves with the poſſeſſion of Madraſs, Calcutta, Bombay, and other forts in the Mogul empire; where, being indulged by the native princes with ſundry exemptions, and excluſive privileges, they carried on a flouriſhing commerce, and divided eight per cent. upon their capital.

The Mogul empire, or Indoſtan, extends, in a compact ſquare maſs of country, from the Tartarian mountains in north latitude 36, to the Bay of Bengal, latitude 22. From thence it ſtretches due ſouth, in the form of a peninſula, to Cape Comorin, within 8 degrees of the line, and thus enjoys a coaſt of 3000 miles, which, beſides the benefits to trade and navigation, contributes to the health of the Europeans who chooſe to reſide in thoſe very diſtant regions.

Indoſtan, in its moſt extenſive ſenſe, contains 1,116,000 ſquare miles, and is conſequently equal in ſize to Great Britain, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Turkey in Europe. The number of people who inhabit Indoſtan is computed at 100,000,000 of Indians, and 10,000,000 of Mahometans or Moors, the deſcendants of thoſe Arabs, Perſians, and Tartars, who at various periods over-run and ſubdued this unwieldy empire.

The native Indians are zealouſly attached to their religious tenets, their laws, and antient cuſtoms; ingenious, tractable, inoffenſive, and ſubmiſſive to a degree unknown in Europe; dark in their complexion, eſpecially towards the ſouth; feeble in their perſons, conſtitutionally and religiouſly temperate, living chiefly upon rice, vegetables, and water.

Indoſtan is not only one of the largeſt empires in the world, but its produce is the moſt valuable; being the greateſt repoſitory of diamonds hitherto diſcovered; beſides its ſpices, drugs, colours, ſilk, cotton, ſaltpetre of the beſt quality, ſaffron, coffee, ſugar, and rice. Its manufactures in ſilks, embroidery, and cottons, have long been the admiration of Europe,

and particularly England, where the thirſt of revenue permits the importation of theſe foreign manufactures, though now equalled, if not exceeded, in beauty, by thoſe at home.

Between the years 1751 and 1760 a train of events, more fortunate than honourable, put the Engliſh Eaſt India Company in poſſeſſion of thoſe provinces which have hitherto been conſidered as the garden of Indoſtan, viz. Bengal, Bahar, and part of Oriſſa; the whole, collectively, equal in dimenſions to the kingdom of France, abounding in manufacturing cities, inhabited by 10,000,000 of people, and producing a revenue of 3,500,000l. annually. The fertile province of Benares, otherwiſe Gazipour, adjoining to Bengal on the north, and producing a revenue of 260,000l. was in 1774 annexed to the Company's poſſeſſions in that quarter. The provinces of Bengal and Benares lie on both ſides of the Ganges, and are every where watered by its tributary ſtreams, which are navigable for veſſels of 200 tons, and connected by canals of ſufficient depth for all the purpoſes of extenſive inland navigation. The company alſo poſſeſs a diſtrict of 40 miles round Madraſs; the iſland of Bombay; and ſeveral detached cities upon the Indian ſhores.

By means of theſe advantages, and their territorial revenues, the Company enjoy, almoſt excluſively, the whole commerce of the Mogul empire; with the ſouthern parts of Arabia, Perſia, and Tibet. They trade alſo with the kingdoms of Aſem, Aracan, Ava, Pegu, Siam, Cambodia, Malacca, the empire of China, and all the Oriental iſlands, excepting Japan, the Manillas, and the iſlands poſſeſſed by the Dutch.

Such are the various and disjointed branches of the Britiſh empire; abounding in articles whereon mankind ſet the greateſt value; a ſtimulus to invaſion, and which will ever require a conſiderable expence to maintain.

Eſtimate of Engliſh exports and imports to and from its remaining ſettlements in 1773, that year ſerving as an average medium of ten years from 1765 to 1775, being the higheſt average of general exports and imports in the commercial annals of this iſland.

	Exports to	Imports from	Seamen
Eaſt Indies	£. 845,707	£. 1,933,096	6000
African forts	— 662,112	— 68,424	- 3900
Weſt Indies	- 1,235,734	- 2,700,814	- 12000
Canada	— 316,867	— 42,394	- 400
Nova Scotia	— 27,032	— 1,719	- 100
Newfoundland Fiſheries	77,744	— 68,087	- 20000
Hudſon's Bay	— 6,467	— 8,943	- 130
	3,171,663	4,823,477	
		3,171,663	
Balance againſt exports		£. 1,651,814	

Could we aſcertain the value of ſupplies for garriſons, particularly in Africa, the balance againſt exports would exceed 2,000,000l. But of the articles which ſwell the amount of imports, we circulate a conſiderable quantity over Europe, chiefly for ſpecie.

Eſtimate of Engliſh exports and imports to, and from, the revolted colonies, upon periodical averages of ten years from 1700 to 1780.

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance in favour of Exports.
1700 to 1710	- £. 267,205	- £. 265,783	- £. 1422
to 1720	- 365,645	- 392,653	- ——
to 1730	- 471,342	- 518,830	- ——
to 1740	- 660,136	- 670,128	- ——
to 1750	- 812,647	- 708,943	- 103,704
to 1760	- 1,577,419	- 802,691	- 774,728
to 1770	- 1,763,409	- 1,044 591	- 718,818
to 1780	- 1,331,206	- 743,560	- 587,646

£. 200,000 per annum ſhould be added to the exports, being the value of ſlaves imported into theſe provinces by the Britiſh merchants directly from Africa.

Africa. This included, Lord Sheffield ſtates the total amount of balances in favour of England between 1700 and 1773, at - - £. 20,000,000

From which may be deducted the eſtimate of ſupplies for the army and navy, the ſame being valued in the exports } 10,000,000

£. 10,000,000

Againſt this balance, and all the commercial benefits which England derived from North America, previous to the revolt of the Thirteen States, Lord Sheffield, and other writers, have brought forward the following ponderous ſums advanced by this country; viz:

To the annual civil eſtabliſhments of the provinces, previous to the war in 1755 — £. 70,000

To ditto from the peace of 1763 to the time of the ſtamp act — } 370,000

To the high bounties granted by parliament to encourage American produce, as hemp, flax, fir, and pine timber, pitch, tar, turpentine, indigo, &c. ſuppoſed in the whole to be annually, £. 200,000

To commercial indulgences allowed the provinces at the expence of the Britiſh merchants.

To loſſes ſuſtained by thoſe merchants from bad payments, particularly ſince the year 1775, when America owed ſeveral millions

But theſe conſiderations, however important, are trifling to the expence of the three laſt wars, which Lord Sheffield places to the account of America, and eſtimates as follows, viz:

The war commencing in 1739	-	£. 31,000,000
——————— 1755	-	71,000,000
——————— 1775	-	100,000,000
		£. 202,000,000

The expence of the laſt war ſeems to be underrated by ſeveral millions.

Relative ſituation of Great Britain and France, in climate, ſoil, extent of territory, commerce, revenue, and other particulars.—INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS *recommended, as affording new ſources of ſtrength and revenue, whereby the mother country will be enabled to retain its ſettlements, extend and protect its commerce.*

The iſland of Great Britain is ſituated between the 50 and 59 degree of latitude, a climate which qualifies the inhabitants equally for the arts of peace or war; while the breezes from the ſurrounding ocean ſoften the rigours of winter, and temperate the air to a degree unknown in countries upon the continent, lying under the ſame latitudes.

It is equally happy in its animal and vegetable productions; its metals, minerals, and fiſheries; forming, upon the whole, a great ſtorehouſe or magazine of thoſe articles which are the moſt ſerviceable to the real wants of mankind. The returns ariſing from the exportation of theſe in favourable years, exceed credibility, and they admit of being further extended, particularly thoſe of grain, and the fiſheries.

This natural produce, however valuable in itſelf, both for home manufactures and exportation, is rendered ſtill more ſo, from the oblong form, and inſular ſituation of Great Britain, poſſeſſing a coaſt of 2000 miles indented on every ſide by lakes, bays, or harbours; communicating outwardly with the ocean; internally, with numerous navigable rivers * and canals; by which means all the trading towns are ports, which communicate with each other, and with the four quarters of the world. The manufacturers at Leeds, Mancheſter, Birmingham, and other places, ſhip their goods almoſt at their own doors, at a low expence of inland carriage to the purchaſers; and receive back,

* England is fertilized by more than 50 rivers, which are navigable for barges, carrying from 5 to 150 tons. Scotland hath only 3 navigable rivers, viz. the Clyde, navigable as high as Glaſgow; the Forth, at Stirling; and the Tay, at Perth; but nature hath made ample amends to that kingdom in the numerous lakes which penetrate from 5 to 40 miles within land, and are navigable for ſhips of the line.

by

by the ſame eaſy conveyance, the raw materials of both hemiſpheres. Theſe are advantages of the moſt eſſential importance to a commercial country, and which no continent, or widely extended maſs of land, can obtain ſo completely.

Theſe kingdoms are alſo happily placed between the two great diviſions of the globe; having Europe, Africa, Aſia, and the valuable Oriental iſlands, on one ſide; North and South America, with the Weſt Indies, on the other. By this moſt favourable poſition, in the centre of the world *, they carry on an expeditious intercourſe with commercial nations; their ſhips are continually ſteering through the ocean in every direction, and the whole earth is their market. Thus hath nature towards this iſland been laviſh in favours, which ſurrounding nations may admire, but cannot attain. She hath pointed out, beyond a poſſibility of miſconception, that the part aſſigned to Britain on the great theatre of the world, is an invariable attention to arts, commerce, fiſheries, and navigation.

Nature is, however, ſo diverſified, that though, in ſundry reſpects, Britain enjoys a decided ſuperiority amongſt nations, yet this pleaſing reflection receives a check in the review of our comparative ſituation with France, the only European ſtate that hath any pretenſions to rivalſhip, or from which danger is to be apprehended.

		Square miles.
France, including the iſland of Corſica, contains - -		141,357
England and Wales	49,450	
Scotland -	27,794	
Ireland -	27,457	
		104,701
Square miles in favour of France -		36,656

The

* The antients conſidered Britain as placed at the weſtern extremity of the world; but, upon the diſcovery of America, our iſland was found to lie between the two continents, and equally adapted for the commerce of the one, and the other. Its ſituation, alſo, facing the

The ſuperiority of that kingdom in climate and ſoil, is ſtill more conſiderable. The northern provinces, as Picardy, Normandy, Britanny, Lorrain, and French Flanders, equal the moſt fertile counties of England, in grain, and common fruits. But the natural riches of France, are its ſouthern provinces, between which, and England, all compariſon ceaſes.

To explain this ſeeming improbability, it may be neceſſary to remind the reader, that thoſe provinces ſupply Europe and America with the moſt delicious wines, as claret, burgundy, champaign, pontac, frontiniac, muſcadel. They alſo produce in great abundance, brandy, honey, the finer fruits, ſilk, ſaltpetre, ſaffron, and excellent ſalt; articles, which enter deeply into the commerce of France, and furniſh exports, ſufficient of themſelves to enrich a great kingdom.

Such extent of dominion, and luxuriancy of ſoil, imply a numerous population, which, according to the late returns of the intendants of the provinces, amounts to near —— 28,000,000

England and Wales, agreeable to Dr. Price's calculation of 5 perſons to each houſe, contains	5,000,000	
Ireland contains above	2,000,000	
Scotland, 30 years ago, agreeable to an eſtimate made out by the late Dr. Webſter,	1,300,000	
		8,300,000
In favour of France		19,700,000

the entrance of the Baltic ſea, affords it a ſhort and eaſy communication with Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland, and the great empire of Ruſſia; countries that furniſh the materials of thoſe mighty fleets which are Britain's glory and defence.

Specie

Specie in France	—	£. 87,000,000
——— Great Britain and Ireland		20,000,000
In favour of France	—	67,000,000

The revenue and expenditure of France have been gradually increaſing ſince the reign of Lewis XIV. and they amount at preſent to 18,000,000l. This ſum may ſound high to an Engliſhman; but, was France taxed proportionably to Great Britain, its revenues would probably exceed 24,000,000l.

This conjecture is founded upon the comparative population of both kingdoms. If 5,000,000 of people in England, raiſe near 15,000,000l. a country ſtill more fertile, equally commercial, and inhabited by 28,000,000 of people, could extend its revenue beyond the abilities of any two nations in Europe to equal.

The great ſuperiority which France enjoys, from extent of territory, and fertility of ſoil, derives additional value from her local and maritime ſituation. Waſhed on one ſide by the Atlantic, ſhe trades with the northern parts of Europe, the coaſt of Africa, India, China, and America. Having the Mediterranean on the ſouth, ſhe engroſſes almoſt the whole trade of Italy, the States of Barbary, the Turkiſh empire in Europe and Aſia, comprehending Greece, Conſtantinople, Syria, Egypt, and other parts of thoſe extenſive ſhores, which antiently engroſſed the commerce of the world *.

Next, if not ſuperior, to thoſe channels of commerce, are her Weſt India colonies, which far exceed, in extent, and value, thoſe of Great Britain; and new plantations are in continual progreſſion. The annual produce of the European colonies was thus valued ſome years ago, when the iſland of Tobago was in the hands of the Engliſh; viz.

* The Britiſh trade with thoſe countries was formerly very conſiderable and beneficial; but it is at preſent little more than a name, owing to the rivalſhip of the French, particularly in broad cloth, which they manufacture chiefly of ſmuggled wool from Ireland and this kingdom.

French

	Ships.	Men.		Value.
French	600	18,000	£.	4,375,000
Britiſh	600	12,000		2,887,500
Dutch	150	4,000		1,050,000
Daniſh	70	1,500		306,250
Spain, it is conjectured, receives to the value of		—		437,500
				9,056,250

It would be endleſs to enumerate the various channels of commerce and revenue which that potent, active kingdom hath opened, and is opening; ſome of them, at the expence of Great Britain, in defiance of our ſhips of the line, and all the vigorous efforts we have been making to retain them.

Equally attentive is that nation to objects of inferior concern, but which, in the aggregate, are rendered ſubſervient to the great plan of national polity. It is well known that Greece and Rome ſet examples to mankind in whatever is beautiful, ſtupendous, and uſeful in architecture and ſcience. In imitation of thoſe great models, the public works in France are conſtructed with a ſpirit, taſte, and ſolidity, far ſurpaſſing the diminutive, imperfect undertakings in England; becauſe, in the former country, they are the works of government, conducted on the moſt extenſive plans, with a view to magnificence as well as general utility. Whereas, in England, thoſe works which are of the greateſt national importance, as highways, canals, and harbours, are entruſted ſolely to the abilities of a few traders, or country gentlemen, whoſe only views being profit, or local conveency, they are executed upon contracted deſigns, frequently with borrowed money, and conſequently ſubject to ſuch heavy burdens as to defeat, in ſome reſpects, the ends for which they were undertaken.

Equally liberal, magnanimous, and politic, is the French government, in adapting its regulations in finance, to the particular ſituations, caſes, and abilities of the reſpective provinces which compoſe the kingdom.

dom. The duty upon ſalt, for inſtance, is levied in ſome diſtricts extremely high; in others, conſiderably lower; while the poorer countries are totally exempted. Even the frontier provinces, which that kingdom hath been gradually abſorbing by conqueſt or treaty, are indulged with privileges and exemptions, which the native French do not enjoy. This condeſcenſion cannot fail of gaining the affections and confidence of thoſe remote ſubjects, and of facilitating new acquiſitions.

Such is the nation which Britain hath as its rival in arts, commerce, and arms. Superior in climate, fertility, and dominion; in population, revenue, ſpecie, munificence, and civil polity; availing itſelf of the errors of this country, and riſing upon its fall.

Upon the whole, we have been too ſecure in our eſtimation of that kingdom, and the wiſdom of its councils. Inſtead of a rival, there is reaſon to dread a ſuperior, or a controuling power, in every quarter of the globe. We have lately beheld our widely diſperſed, and devoted empire; our commerce, ſhipping, and all the avenues and ſources of external revenue, at the mercy of the moſt potent kingdom on the globe; whoſe friendſhip is univerſally courted by mankind, and whoſe influence gives the turn, or caſt, to the councils of Europe, Aſia, and America. No longer governed by an oſtentatious diſplay of military parade in Flanders and Germany, our rival now directs her attention to commerce, the navy, and the humbling of Great Britain. While we are amuſing ourſelves with the unceaſing ſquabbles of ambition, faction, or party, France is concluding a treaty, or meditating a blow againſt this infatuated country. Our wars, therefore, are in future to be conſidered, not as wars of choice, but of unavoidable neceſſity. To whatever hemiſphere France directs her fleets and armies, thither the Britiſh armaments muſt follow, to watch ſo vigilant an enemy, and to ward off the impending danger.

Thus, there remains no alternative between a total relinquiſhment of our tranſmarine poſſeſſions, or a con-

continued, expenſive preparation for defenſive war. If we reſolve upon the latter, we muſt at the ſame time deviſe new ſources of men and revenue, a matter of greater difficulty than ſome ſpeculative writers ſeem to allow. The ordinary and extraordinary revenues have nearly ſeen their utmoſt limits, beyond which they cannot be carried, without endangering manufactures and population. Neither can we extend the lines of our narrow kingdom, becauſe theſe are fixed, unalterably, by the hand of Nature. But though we cannot enlarge its boundaries, we may improve its ſoil, realize millions of acres which are covered at preſent with heath, bruſhwood, moſs, or ſtagnated waters. We may encourage arts, and new branches of manufacture; facilitate inland carriage, extend the fiſheries, and raiſe a new world of thriving populous villages. The hitherto neglected metropolis may be improved, and ornamented with magnificent edifices, ſo as to become the admiration of mankind, and to draw hither the wealthy, and the curious, from all parts of Europe, as to the centre of arts, commerce, and ſplendour.

Harbours may be deepened, royal dock-yards conſtructed in the moſt eligible ſituations, and ſhip-building encouraged around the whole iſland.

We may adopt a compendious and ſaving mode of collecting the revenue, to the mutual advantage of government and the community; beſides the ſuppreſſion of that national evil, ſmuggling; a practice, which the vigilance of the whole navy of England would in vain attempt to prevent. We may appropriate a given ſum for reducing the national debt; or adopt for that purpoſe ſome of the plans propoſed by doctor Price, whoſe writings on this ſubject ought to be read by all thoſe who have any regard for the ſafety of their country, its commerce, and dependencies.

Theſe ſeem to be ſome of the moſt neceſſary objects of attention; but, if improvements were extended to a reviſal of the whole ſyſtem of national polity, ſo as to model, qualify, and bring down all the conſtituent

ent parts, to caſes and circumſtances now exiſting; the objects will be found ſo numerous and important, that it would require the abilities, and political knowledge, of a Sheffield, an Eden, or a Tucker, to bring them into public view.

With this iſland is lodged the active, invigorating force, that gives, or ought to give, ſecurity and protection to all the diſtant branches throughout the wide expanſe of empire. Proportioned, therefore, to the magnitude of external dominion and commerce, ſhould be the powers of the centre; a conſideration which hath not, ſeemingly, had a due ſhare of attention. The improvement of the mother country was neglected, as an object of trivial concern, and the conſequences were ſuch as might have been expected. Filled with vaſt ideas of extenſive empire, and commercial monopoly, we enjoyed a momentary ſplendour, at an expence far exceeding our abilities, and in a few years the golden dream vaniſhed.

But ſo extenſive were our diſtant poſſeſſions, that though an empire be loſt, through the weakneſs of the ſeat of government, an empire ſtill acknowledges our ſway; whoſe proportionable magnitude, to that of Great Britain, is as five to one, without including the uninhabited regions of Labrador, and the countries round Hudſon's Bay.

Conſidering our ſituation, therefore, in every point of view, national improvements, and the increaſe of population, ſeem not only matters of expediency, but of poſitive neceſſity; objects of the firſt importance, and to which all other concerns are only ſecondary, in a very diſtant degree. Happily, the field which yet remains for the exerciſe of a patriotic adminiſtration; the internal reſources ſtill in reſerve for the relief of an oppreſſed kingdom; afford a pleaſing, well-grounded proſpect, that we ſhall not only be able to ſurmount preſent difficulties, but even to riſe, with redoubled ſtrength, from the ruins of a ſhattered empire. If we wiſh to erect the fabric of future proſperity on a permanent baſis, we muſt return to our deſerted native country;

trace out the unexplored gifts of nature, and bring into action all its hidden treaſures. England in 1784, contraſted with England at the Revolution; with Ireland, Ruſſia, and North America, is a highly improved country. But England in 1784, compared with Holland, China, antient Greece, Italy, and Egypt, is yet in a ſtate of nature; ſtill more ſo, is the northern part of our iſland, as will appear in the ſubſequent review of that kingdom.

Reſpecting population, we have to obſerve that the ſeven United Provinces of the Netherlands, containing only 9540 ſquare miles, and ſupplied in grain and neceſſaries by their neighbours, calculate the number of inhabitants at above 2,000,000. Whereas Great Britain, which contains 77,244 ſquare miles, and ſupplies other nations with its exuberance, whoſe natural ſituation is moſt eminently calculated for inland and foreign trade, is ſuppoſed to be inhabited by no more than 6,300,000. We may therefore, without entering upon minute calculation, thus eſtimate the number of people, who, with the aid of government, might be maintained and employed in Great Britain, viz.

In England — —	12,000,000
— Scotland — —	3,000,000
	15,000,000
If the Iriſh government ſhall perſevere in its patriotic efforts, the population of that fertile kingdom may be increaſed from 2 to	5,000,000
	20,000,000

the whole conſtituting a power ſufficient for all the purpoſes of external defence, againſt the united force of our very formidable rival, and her numerous allies.

To theſe favourable circumſtances on the creditor ſide of public affairs, we have further to add, that, after 1791, the remaining long annuities, and life-annuities, granted in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne, alſo the annuities given as douceurs

to

to thoſe who have advanced money to the ſtate, ſince thoſe reigns, will gradually expire, by which above 1,300,000l. annually, will revert to the public.

It is ever to be regretted that government did not raiſe the loans, or the greateſt part of them, on temporary annuities, which they might have done at a trifling difference in the expence. If, inſtead of 10,000,000l. the intereſt of the preſent debt, and of which eight parts are, or will be, perpetual, government had funded a tenth part only in perpetuity, the expence would ſcarcely have been felt by the nation in general, while a million paid annually to the opulent creditors of the public, would have fully anſwered all the purpoſes of individual conveniency. Such would have been the happy ſtate of our finances at the preſent time, and ſo light the burdens tranſmitted to poſterity, had miniſters been ſeriouſly inclined to keep the public debts within moderate bounds. Nor is it yet too late to put theſe enormous burdens into a train of redemption, within a given time, providing that our preſent rulers ſhall be ſo diſpoſed. If they wiſh to gain the full confidence of the nation; to unfetter our commerce and manufactures; to check emigration; and to keep that many-headed monſter, war, at a diſtance, by being always prepared for it; if they are emulous of honeſt, well-earned fame, and deſirous to tranſmit their names to poſterity, as the ſaviours of their country; they will liſten to the voice of reaſon, and the calls of common juſtice towards an injured community, who have been wantonly, and grievouſly loaded, beyond any example in the annals of mankind.

The further reſources ſtill in reſerve for national purpoſes, may be thus ſtated.

Savings in the army and ordnance eſtabliſhments, in conſequence of the loſs of America, and the very expenſive, though uſeleſs iſland of Minorca.

Ditto, in bounties on American produce, and other diſburſements in thoſe ſtates, the whole ſuppoſed to be half a million annually.

Ditto, in collecting the exciſe, cuſtoms, and duties, being at preſent from 6 to 15 per cent. on the groſs amount, but which may be reduced to leſs than one half of that expence, ſo ſoon as the complicated maſs of revenue ſhall be ſimplified or conſolidated, and ſmuggling ſuppreſſed.

Ditto, by aboliſhing the bounty on the exportation of corn, ſuppoſed to coſt the nation 140,000l. annually, upon an average of years, without anſwering any other purpoſe than the encouragement of frauds, it being alledged that many cargoes thus ſhipped upon a bounty are, ſoon after, brought back, relanded, and ſhipped upon a ſecond bounty *.

* A bounty upon the exportation of corn in a manufacturing country, is ſo far impolitic, as it affords a pretence for raiſing the rents of lands at the expence of that claſs of people who are leaſt able to bear it; and, at the ſame time, gives our rivals in trade a decided advantage at foreign markets. It hath been argued, in ſupport of the bounty, that cheap proviſions is the ſource of idleneſs, and diſorderly habits, amongſt perſons who are reſtleſs through the impatience of money in their pockets. Admitting this to be the caſe with a portion of the mechanics, labourers, and other working people throughout the kingdom, ſhall the wives and children of theſe thoughtleſs men be rendered ſtill more wretched, through the want of that neceſſary article, bread, thus artificially enhanced beyond its natural value, and beyond the abilities even of the moſt induſtrious mother to purchaſe a ſufficient quantity for her unhappy offspring? Or, becauſe the kingdom may contain 50 or 60,000 diſorderly perſons, is the whole body of the ſober, the domeſtic, and the induſtrious manufacturers, artiſts, and labourers, with their families, amounting to ſome millions, to be thus deprived of the gifts which Heaven hath ſo bountifully provided for them.

It hath been further argued, that, as wages are higher in England than in any other country, the working people can bear a proportionable riſe in the price of proviſions; but it ſhould be conſidered, that human nature is ſubject to accidents, to lingering ſickneſs, and to death; that even the moſt diligent are ſometimes out of employ, from ſtagnation of buſineſs; and that when the work, from whatever cauſe, is at a ſtand, the ſupplies of a whole family are inſtantly cut off. Debts, or the precarious dependence upon friends or neighbours, look them in the face, and the loſs of one week throws them back many weeks. It ought alſo to be conſidered, that as taxes, and all the neceſſaries of life have riſen, and are riſing, far beyond any example in other countries, the article of bread, ſhould, in policy and humanity, be permitted to reach the cottage, and the garret, at ſuch prices as bounteous nature alone, ſhall, from year to year, ſtamp upon it.

Sale

Sale of the royal foreſts, crown lands, and other unproductive claims, which would alſo open a new field to agriculture, population, and the conſumption of home manufactures.

Some of theſe ſavings are now in actual progreſſion, and the accumulated amount of the whole will ultimately exceed 2,000,000l. annually.

In the mean time, however, additional taxes muſt be levied to raiſe the public revenue to a par, or level, with the unavoidable diſburſements as before ſtated; and, as perſons of all denominations have ſomething to ſay on theſe ſubjects, the following obſervations are ſubmitted, among other ſchemes of the day, to the conſideration of the reader.

The objects of revenue may be claſſed under three general heads;

1. *The landed property*; on which, owing to late improvements, and the rapid growth of towns, the tax is levied at preſent, very unequally.

2. *Trade and commerce*; or duties and exciſes on exports and imports, manufactures, and the neceſſaries of life. Objects, that ought to be the laſt in conſideration, and always touched with the greateſt delicacy; but which, on the contrary, have been taxed, and re-taxed, to an alarming degree; tending to ſap the foundations of commerce, the great prop on which all other ſources of revenue chiefly depend.

3. *Luxuries, ſuperfluities, and amuſements*, ſeem therefore, the moſt eligible objects of taxation, and which will be more or leſs productive in proportion as commerce ſhall be exempted. From theſe channels all the deficiencies of revenue may be amply ſupplied, and at an eaſy expence in collecting; without oppreſſing any claſs of people; without cramping the national exertions; or driving the induſtrious manufacturers and their families to the new world. The articles which ſeem to be the moſt productive, though the leaſt burdenſome, are,

	ANNUALLY.		
Gentlemen's carriages having 4 wheels and 2 horſes, —	£. 10	0	0
—— 4 ditto — —	25	0	0
—— 6 ditto — —	50	0	0
Chaiſes or whiſkies having 2 wheels -	5	0	0
Saddle horſes kept for pleaſure —	1	0	0
Qualifications for ſhooting —	5	0	0
Every pack of hounds —	25	0	0
Dogs, of a certain deſcription —	1	0	0
Every houſe-keeper or maſter of a family, for permiſſion that hair powder may be uſed in ſuch family, if renting a houſe under 50l. and to be charged proportionably, upon higher rents	0	5	0
A ſimilar tax to be levied and proportioned upon houſekeepers, who permit card-playing within their reſpective houſes	0	5	0
Every perſon who wears cambrics, lawns, or lace, of foreign manufacture	20	0	0
—— ditto who wears muſlins, and cottons of whatever quality or denomination, being the manufacture of the Eaſt Indies	10	0	0

Theſe taxes, if duly enforced, are calculated to raiſe near 2,000,000l.; a ſum which, with ſavings, and the extinction of temporary annuities, would effect the following eſſential purpoſes, viz:

Make good all the deficiencies of revenue, ariſing from whatever cauſe.

Enable government to reduce the national debt, by means of an accumulating fund, upon compound intereſt, during a given number of years*. And thirdly, enable

* Dr. Price and other gentlemen converſant in numerical calculations, have given ſeveral ſtriking examples of the progreſſive effects of accumulating intereſt, providing that both principal and intereſt ſhall be permitted to operate, without alienating any part thereof, as was originally propoſed by the projectors of the ſinking fund in 1716.

"Money,' ſays the Dr. 'bearing compound intereſt increaſes at firſt ſlowly. But, the rate of intereſt being continually accelerated, it becomes in ſome time ſo rapid as to mock all the powers of the imagi-

enable government to appropriate a ſpecific ſum annually to objects of national improvement; which, beſides giving encouragement to ingenuity, and employment to the induſtrious, would promote the circulation of ſpecie throughout the kingdom, increaſe the demand for various articles of inland manufacture, keep the people at home; and finally, produce, in their operation, an annual equivalent equal to the whole amount of the original expence, if not, in many inſtances, exceeding it.

So ſoon as the great concerns of the nation ſhall be put into this happy train, Britannia may be conſidered as out of danger, and in a hopeful way; eſpecially ſo, if we, inſtead of ſtimulating the jealouſy, and irritating the paſſions of mankind, enjoy our ſuperlative advantages, in humble gratitude to the Author of thoſe gifts, and with moderation and humanity towards mankind, of whatever country or complexion.

This rule of conduct will allay the jealouſies, diſſipate the reſentments, and ſecure the friendſhip of an

imagination. *One penny*, put out at our Saviour's birth to 5 *per cent. compound* intereſt, would, before this time, have increaſed to a greater ſum, than would be contained in a *hundred and fifty millions of earths all ſolid gold.* But if put out on *ſimple* intereſt, it would in the ſame time, have amounted to no more than *ſeven ſhillings and four pence half-penny.*

Reſpecting the preſent national debt, the Dr. ſays, that a million borrowed annually for 20 years, will pay off, in this time 55 millions 3 per cent ſtock, if diſcharged at 60l. in money for every 100l. ſtock; and in 40 years more, without any further aid from loans, 333 millions (that is 388 millions in all) would be paid off. The addition of 19 years to this period would pay off a *thouſand millions.*"

"One million yearly applied to diſcharge our debt, would, ſays Baron Maſeres, raiſe in 60 years, at 75 per cent. 317 millions."

Such is the hope yet remaining for this iſland, after the long train of political errors which characterize the age. It muſt therefore afford every friend of his country, and of poſterity, very conſiderable ſatisfaction when he contemplates, that by a ſlight requiſition on a few articles of luxury only, our incumbrances may be diſcharged, and all taxes on manufactures, and the neceſſaries of life aboliſhed. By this happy turn in our affairs we ſhall, conſequently, go to foreign markets with better goods, and at lower prices; nor will there be, under ſuch circumſtances, the ſmalleſt pretence to ranſack the globe, in queſt of remote ſettlements.

offended world. It will accelerate commercial intercourſe, give permanency to old channels of trade, and open new ones, whereof there yet remains an unbounded field, eſpecially with France, and the northern part of our iſland; countries, of which we have in many reſpects loſt the benefit, by labouring to cruſh the one, and by cramping the exertions of the other.

Such is the arduous work allotted for thoſe who are, or ſhall be, entruſted with the management of public affairs. They have to undo the miſtakes of almoſt a century, and to lead the nation into that direction which nature, experience, and the circumſtances of the times, point out as its proper line of action.

The embarraſſments to be encountered, and the difficulties to be ſurmounted, in reſtoring a fallen empire, preſent a noble field for the exerciſe of Roman patriotiſm; that ſpecies of virtue which elevates the mind, ſuperſedes all ſelfiſh or frivolous conſiderations, and perſeveres, with enthuſiaſtic zeal, in whatever is great, uſeful, and benevolent. It is pleaſing to obſerve, that as our former ſyſtem was fallacious in its principle, and ruinous in its operation to ourſelves, and to mankind; the meaſures reſerved for the preſent day will produce the moſt ſalutary, healing, and beneficial effects, wherever our influence extends. That plan of action, which is calculated to beſtow not imaginary, but real glory, to this exhauſted country, will, at the ſame time, give peace, ſecurity, and comfort, to a tenth part of the human race *.

* The world is ſuppoſed to contain 953 millions of people; of which number, 25 millions are under the ſovereignty of the king of Great Britain; but, in eſtimating the whole collective body of mankind who are more or leſs under the influence of the Britiſh councils, or affected by them, we muſt include the greateſt part of the Mogul empire. The truſt which Heaven hath repoſed in the members of the Britiſh ſenate is, therefore, a matter of the greateſt importance, and moſt ſerious concern: they are the ſtewards of nations and people, in every quarter of the globe; bound, by every poſſible tie, to diffuſe univerſal juſtice, and effectually to redreſs the grievances of thoſe who cannot, or who dare not, lodge their complaints perſonally, where alone the ſupreme power is veſted.

ANTIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF SCOTLAND; PARTICULARLY THE LOW COUNTRIES.

Commercial Annals of Scotland.

SCOTLAND having been long harraſſed by hoſtile invaſion, and ſometimes embroiled in civil commotions, the profeſſion of arms became both a neceſſary, and a favourite employment amongſt the great body of the people. Every man was a ſoldier, ready to march at the command of his chieftain, or upon the ſummons of his prince. The nation, thus inured to the habits of war, in defence of their country and liberties, and always prevailing in the ſequel, gained a military reputation abroad; while the valour and fidelity of the auxiliary Scots, in the armies of contending princes, procured their native kingdom various commercial privileges and exemptions, which it enjoyed until the acceſſion of James VI. to the crown of England, when thoſe nations, the mart at Campvere in Holland excepted, alledging that Scotland was no longer a ſeparate kingdom, ſubjected its commerce to the ſame regulations and reſtrictions as that of England. The Scots of the middle ages, ſenſible of the benefits to commerce which thoſe diſtinguiſhed privileges beſtowed, began to avail themſelves of the riches which their ſeas and extenſive

coaſts afforded, and to import, chiefly by means of the fiſheries, not only the produce of more luxuriant climates, but alſo ſpecie in conſiderable plenty; inſomuch, that the coin of Scotland continued, for many ages, the ſame in quality and quantity as coins of the like denominations in England.

Mention is made by foreign writers of a traffic between Scotland and the Low Countries, whither, in the ninth century, the Scots carried their fiſh; and it is obſervable, that this trade firſt ſuggeſted to the Dutch the idea of that fiſhery on the coaſt of Scotland, which was the origin of their riſe, from inſignificant villages, to High and Mighty States.

Long before that period, however, the Scots and Picts ſeem to have been acquainted with certain principles of rude architecture, as appears by ſundry houſes and ruins, particularly in the Highlands, of a moſt ſingular conſtruction, and fully deſcribed by the antiquaries of the preſent century.

Next in time, are the circular towers at Brechin and Abernethy, which have alſo been deſcribed, tho' their uſes have not been aſcertained, by thoſe writers.

It is beyond a doubt that eccleſiaſtical buildings of conſiderable magnitude began to be erected in the fifth century; ſome of theſe buildings being mentioned by Bede who lived near that period, and by ſucceeding hiſtorians, and charters.

But it was not till the Scots had re-united the Pictiſh kingdom, expelled the Saxons, broke the power of the Danes, and eſtabliſhed peace and ſecurity, that the princes, nobility, and dignified clergy, began, by means of commerce and the fiſheries, to erect thoſe magnificent fabrics which characterize the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries. Thoſe mighty works were carried on with unremitting aſſiduity, under the patronage of a line of excellent monarchs, through whoſe mild government, wiſe inſtitutions, and patriotic exertions, the kingdom arrived, comparatively, to a conſiderable degree of refinement, and began to form a part in the political ſcale of Europe, when the death of Alexander

der III. in 1285, wound up that flouriſhing period, and embroiled the two Britiſh kingdoms in all the calamities of a ſixty years war.

The population, the commerce, and the reſources of Scotland, at the commencement of that deſtructive æra, muſt have been very conſiderable. The kingdom was ſupplied in grain, arms, and other neceſſaries, from Venice, Genoa, France, and the Low Countries; and, as all the trifling manufactures of that age muſt have been at a ſtand during the war, we may attribute thoſe ſupplies to the fiſheries alone.

No ſooner had peace, ſecurity, and good order, been reſtored, than the nation reſumed its commercial ſpirit with new vigour, and from thenceforward the progreſſive flouriſhing ſtate of Scotland is fully authenticated in the writings of Britiſh and foreign hiſtorians, as well as by charters, and parliamentary records.

The fifteenth century, opens an æra extremely favourable to the arts of civil life in that kingdom, particularly literature, ſcience, huſbandry, planting, commerce, navigation, and the fiſheries. It introduces the pacific, the ſplendid, and truly patriotic reigns of the five James's, who were equally vigorous in executing, as their parliaments were in enacting, the numerous regulations and inſtitutions which diſtinguiſhed what may be termed the vertical period of Scotland's glory and happineſs.

The death of James V. in 1542, cloſed the ſplendour, and in ſome degree the independency of that antient kingdom. The oppoſite factions under the influence of France and England, co-operating with the ſtruggles which ſubverted the Popiſh religion, exhauſted the internal ſtrength of the nation, enfeebled the excentric powers of government, deſolated the country, and laid in ruins thoſe noble edifices which it had been the work of ages to erect.

But though the nation was thus internally convulſed during the reigns of Mary and James VI. commerce ſtill continued to flouriſh in a certain degree.

Louis

Louis Guicciardin, in his account of the Low Countries about the year 1560, enumerates the imports from Scotland, and ſays, "That Campvere in Holland owes its principal commerce to its being the ſtaple port for all the Scottiſh ſhipping, and ſo has been for a long ſeries of years." Nor was the trade of that kingdom confined to Europe only. In 1589, the Earl of Cumberland, in his cruize againſt the Spaniards, met with three or four Scottiſh ſhips at the Azores, who ſupplied him with wine and water.

The principal exports from Scotland during the middle ages were cattle, peltry of various kinds; leather, wool, coarſe wollen and linen goods; pearls, ſalmon, pickled and red herrings; pork, lead, and coals.

The trade of the kingdom was chiefly carried on from St. Andrews, Dundee, Perth, Montroſe, Aberdeen, and the numerous ports of the Forth.

We now arrive at a period when patriotiſm diſappeared, and when national improvements ceaſed. An event took place, which, though it ſheathed the ſwords of both nations, proved in its conſequences more fatal to Scotland than the politicians of thoſe ages had foreſeen. This was its giving a king to England in the perſon of James VI. anno 1603, by which the two crowns were inſeparably united; an elevation extremely pleaſing to James, who thereby became ſole monarch of Great Britain, but which ſtruck ſo deep at the root of national proſperity in his native dominions, that many of the trading towns fell into decay, and have not yet been able to recover their former importance. The princes who had inſpired the nation with noble ſentiments, who had warmly patronized whatever conſtitutes the power, the opulence, and the elevation of ſtates, being now withdrawn; the people loſt their ſpirit, univerſal dejection took place, and the nation ſunk back rapidly, into ignorance and inſignificance.

In this deplorable ſituation did that country remain till the late reign, when a ſpirit of improvement, induſtry, and commerce, began to pervade the centre of the

the kingdom. While the encouragement given to the linen manufacture gave new life to the decayed ports of the eaſtern ſhores, and rouſed them into action, the American commerce, and the bounties on the fiſheries, animated thoſe of the weſt.

The citizens of Glaſgow, availing themſelves of their ſituation, fitted out in 1718 the firſt veſſel of Glaſgow property that croſſed the Atlantic. Their trade advanced by ſlow degrees till 1750; and from that period to 1775, it may be ſaid to have flouriſhed. In 1776, America prohibited all intercourſe with Great Britain. In 1782, Ireland was admitted to participate in the American and Weſt India commerce; and, in 1783, the American trade was laid open to all the world. Thus vaniſhed, after a ſhort poſſeſſion, all the excluſive commercial privileges relative to that country; for which, the Scots annihilated their parliament, their African and India Company; and ſubjected themſelves to exciſes, taxes, duties, and commercial reſtrictions unknown before the year 1707.

Commercial Eſtabliſhments.

All the commercial privileges which the Scots enjoyed abroad have been revoked, as before mentioned, excepting at Campvere in Holland, which is ſtill the reſidence of a conſul, or conſervator, appointed by the royal boroughs of Scotland; and even theſe privileges have of late been held on a precarious tenure, notwithſtanding the obligations which Holland owes the former kingdom.

The court or convention of the royal boroughs in Scotland had its origin about the middle of the twelfth century. The number of theſe boroughs is at preſent ſixty-ſix, including the cities. Some of them are in ruins, others decayed, the harbours choaked up, and the corporations involved in debts. The boroughs are repreſented in parliament by 15 members; and, at the annual convention held at Edinburgh, by one commiſſioner from every borough, beſides Edinburgh, which ſends two. Their privileges extend to commercial affairs both within the kingdom and abroad,

abroad, of which they conſider themſelves the guardians, but having neither funds nor ſpirit, their conventions of late years have not effected any material purpoſe of national concern.

In 1726, however, the convention, perceiving the miſerable ſtate of the nation, procured a new eſtabliſhment, for the encouragement of fiſheries, manufactures, and improvements, conſiſting of 21 truſtees, who, ſo far as their very limited funds extend, have rendered their country the moſt eſſential ſervices. The funds allotted for theſe great national objects conſiſt of 5 or 6000l. ariſing from the forfeited eſtates, and a ſmall revenue from other ſources; the whole, far too inadequate to the improvement of a kingdom.

In 1746, Archibald Duke of Argyle (the Mæcenas of Scotland) procured a royal charter for the eſtabliſhment of a Britiſh Linen Company, with a capital ſtock of 100,000l. and which may be further increaſed as the affairs of the Company ſhall require.

Preſent State of Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce.

Improvements in the various branches of huſbandry, planting, and the raiſing a better breed of cattle and ſheep, have made rapid progreſs in the Lowlands ſince the year 1750; but much remains to be done, particularly on thoſe eſtates whoſe proprietors reſide in other parts of the iſland.

Partly to the abſence of thoſe gentlemen, is owing the neglect of manufactures, and commerce, over a very conſiderable part of the kingdom; the banks of the Clyde, the Forth, and the Tay, with a portion of the eaſt coaſt, as far north as Aberdeen, may be ſaid to carry on the whole trade of the nation both inland and foreign.

Moſt of the countries to the ſouthward of Edinburgh, and whoſe inhabitants compoſed, in antient tim s, the flower of the Scottiſh armies, exhibit at preſent a melancholy picture of decayed boroughs, neglected ſeats, and a dejected commonality. Tho' this

diſtrict hath a coaſt of near 200 miles, abounding in ſmall harbours, and ſituated moſt admirably for weſtern commerce; yet, from the head of the Solway Firth to the town of Air, there is neither manufacture, nor ſhipping beyond the ſize of the herring buſſes, altho' it would appear by the number of ports, and by tradition, that there was formerly a petty traffic in all thoſe places.

The ſame remarks are applicable to the extenſive coaſts which reach from Aberdeenſhire to the Pentland Firth. There is, however, amongſt the gentlemen of the northern counties, a more general ſpirit for introducing ſmall branches of manufacture, as alſo for planting, and other rural improvements. By theſe generous efforts, the hills begin to be covered with timber of various denominations, and ſo numerous as to exceed credibility. Of this, the eſtate of the late Sir Archibald Grant furniſhes the moſt ſtriking inſtance, that gentleman having, it is ſaid, lived to ſee ſeveral millions of trees of his own planting, and moſtly in full growth.

Of the various Claſſes and Degrees of People in the Lowlands, and their Propenſity for the Manufactures of England.

It is ſcarcely neceſſary under this head to mention the nobility, gentry, and principal traders; their manners and modes of life being ſimilar to thoſe of the ſame ranks in England, from which country they ſupply themſelves in the various articles of dreſs, furniture, and paintings.

Very different, however, in ſundry reſpects, are the generality of the farmers of Scotland from their ſouthern brethren. No ſooner has the traveller paſſed the borders, than he perceives a ſtriking contraſt, not only in the appearance of the farms, houſes, and cattle, but alſo in the countenances of the people. The men are ſober, temperate, and laborious; the women equally diligent in raiſing coarſe woollen and linen cloth, and other neceſſaries for the family, beſides ſome

ſmall

ſmall matters, particularly linen and yarn, for ſale. Some of the more fertile diſtricts excepted, this claſs of people ſeldom enjoy the luxury of butcher's meat, wheaten bread, or even ſmall-beer. Theſe they chearfully relinquiſh, to gratify their propenſity for Engliſh broad-cloth and other fineries, wherewith to adorn themſelves on Sundays, and public occaſions. Notwithſtanding the inceſſant toils of the week, they attend all the duties of religion with the utmoſt punctuality, and are equally attentive to the education and morals of their children, inſomuch that irregularities ſeldom happen, and crimes of a groſs nature are ſcarcely known. Poſſibly, the number of executions in the courſe of juſtice, doth not amount to ſix perſons annually, upon an average of years, throughout the whole kingdom.

Equally ſober, induſtrious, and domeſtic, are the mechanics, whoſe earnings, excepting thoſe who are engaged in the finer manufactures, do not exceed ſeven or eight ſhillings weekly. On this they dreſs in Engliſh broad-cloth; and their wives, occaſionally, in ſilks from London. On this alſo, they bring up, educate, and fit out for the world, thoſe adventurous intelligent people, who abound throughout Europe, Aſia, and America.

There is another claſs in Scotland, whoſe induſtry, and laudable pride, enable them to maintain themſelves without troubling the pariſh, and at the ſame time contribute materially to the great ſtaple of the kingdom. Theſe are females of various ages, and under various diſtreſſing circumſtances; the orphan, the widow, and the aged mother; all thoſe who have out-lived their kindred, or who receive no ſupport from them. By unremitting application at the wheel, they gain two ſhillings weekly in, or near, the manufacturing towns; but thoſe of the northern parts, and who are chiefly employed in knitting ſtockings, cannot, with the cloſeſt application, clear above eighteen pence. So ſlender an income implies a ſcanty ſubſiſtence, conſiſting of barley-meal, greens, pota-

potatoes, butter-milk, whey, or water. A ſmall moiety is reſerved for a decent apparel, of home manufacture, wherein to appear at church; and though worn down with age, infirmities or neglect, they hold out with ſurpriſing chearfulneſs and fortitude, having always in contemplation, the proſpect of a happier exiſtence throughout eternity. This is alſo the conſolation of the great body of people in that kingdom; the favourite ſubject of their converſation when in health, and the ſupport of their minds in the days of affliction.

Upon the whole, when we conſider the Lowlands of Scotland in a general view; the diſpoſition, induſtry, and ſober manners of the inhabitants; the millions of acres yet in a ſtate of nature; the numerous decayed ſea-ports, which might be reſtored; the abundance of fiſh, cattle, ſheep, vegetables and roots; and that, of 32 counties, 18 export grain, not from the extraordinary crops, but the thinneſs of inhabitants; when we ſum up all theſe circumſtances, the aggregate will enable us to form an eſtimate of the importance of that diviſion of the iſland; and this leads to the main objects of the pamphlet ſo far as they relate to that kingdom.

Scotland the moſt valuable Nurſery of Seamen in the Britiſh Empire, England excepted.

The benefits which England derives from Ireland, America, Africa, the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, have been the frequent theme of public diſcuſſion by the natives of the reſpective countries, or by perſons whoſe intereſt or inclination it was, to ſet forth theſe advantages in the moſt favourable light.

Our derivative benefits, from the northern part of the united kingdom, in ſtrength, and commerce, tho' of all others the moſt valuable, permanent, and improveable, have not hitherto been ſo forcibly repreſented, ſo fully underſtood, or regarded with ſuch attention and reſpect, as their importance ſeem to require.

quire. To this is chiefly owing the neglect of that kingdom, the contempt in which it is beheld, the comparative ſcantineſs of the funds allotted for its improvement, and the univerſal diſpoſition for emigration amongſt the huſbandmen and artiſts, to a country where thoſe induſtrious people will eſtabliſh, much ſooner than is generally imagined, the various manufactures of their native land*.

It is to be wiſhed that we may not, for a long term of years, have occaſion for ſuch numerous armies as have lately pervaded the globe, and in which the Scots ſupported, as uſual, their military reputation: but a powerful, well-appointed fleet, and a proportionate number of men, always in readineſs, will ever be neceſſary, both in peace and war. The great exertions, and the incredible expence of this kingdom, in raiſing, acquiring, protecting, and retaining, diſtant ſettlements, had the navy in view, equally with commerce, becauſe the one depended upon the other. The carrying trade to, and from, thoſe ſettlements, reſpectively, was conſidered as ſo many ſources which conſtituted England's glory and defence: but that concluſion admits of ſome exceptions. The trade to China and the Eaſt Indies, inſtead of being a nurſery for ſeamen, is the conſumer of that very uſeful claſs of people, and requires conſtant ſupplies from the temperate ſhores of Britain. The trade to Africa is equally deſtructive; and even the Weſt Indies, being ſubject to all the diſorders peculiar to the tropical climates, muſt debilitate and carry off great numbers of men, in a premature age.

The North American commerce was more favourable to longevity, and employed 8000 ſeamen, who

* The religious commotions in Scotland during the reigns of James I. Charles I. and II. and the inability of thoſe princes to carry their deſigns into execution relative to trade and the fiſheries, diſpoſed numbers of people to emigrate; ſome went to New-England, but the greateſt number, particularly from the weſtern counties, ſettled in the north of Ireland, and to the calamities of Scotland is owing the flouriſhing ſtate of the Iriſh linen manufacture.

were

were, however, chiefly Britains; nor did America ever afford any ſupplies to the navy, and none is now to be expected from that quarter. On the contrary, the northern provinces are building ſhips of the line for our rival, to whoſe marine ſtrength, by an unexpected turn in human policy, the foreſts of that great continent are at preſent devoted.

Such being the partiality of America towards France; and ſuch the deſtructive nature of the carrying trade to all our remaining ſettlements, Canada, Nova-Scotia, and Newfoundland excepted, the Scottiſh fiſheries claim the moſt ſerious conſideration. That great nurſery contributes, in a double capacity, to the aid and ſtrength of this kingdom; it ſupplies equally the waſte of the mercantile ſervice, and the royal navy; enabling us to carry on the greateſt traffic, and to mann the moſt victorious fleets that the world hath ſeen.

Previous to the American war, and when the bounty, at preſent limited to the herring buſſes, was regularly paid, the fiſheries of that kingdom and the three diviſions of iſlands employed 20,000 men, compoſed of perienced ſeamen, or perſons who were advancing progreſſively in the naval profeſſion.

The great ſuperiority of this nurſery to all others appears in the following comparative ſtatement:

The commerce of the 13 States when in our poſſeſſion, alſo Canada, Nova Scotia, and Hudſon's Bay, employed	8000
The whale fiſhery to Greenland, Davis's Straits, and other parts, encouraged by a large bounty, employs	2000
The ſettlements, colonies, and iſlands, ſtill ſubject to Great Britain, in various parts of the world, employ, viz.	
Hudſon's Bay — — —	130
Nova Scotia * — —	200
	Canada

* The eſtimate, reſpecting Canada and Nova Scotia, being made before the American war, muſt be conſidered far too low for the preſent time. The great reſort of refugees to thoſe provinces, and

Canada	400
Africa	3900
Weſt Indies	12000
Eaſt Indies	6000
	22630
The Newfoundland fiſheries employed of men and boys	20000

This ſtatement ſpeaks at once to the underſtanding. We perceive that the Scottiſh fiſheries, and of one ſpecies only, employ, in the proportion of ten ſeamen to one who are engaged in the whale fiſhery; above two to one of thoſe who carried on the whole North American commerce while in our poſſeſſion, and nearly equal to the number now employed in all our remaining ſettlements.

Of ſtill greater conſequence will theſe fiſheries appear, when it is known that the herring and the white fiſheries, upon the coaſts, lakes, and firths of Scotland, could raiſe, and keep in conſtant readineſs for other ſervice, 50,000 † hardy ſeamen, and at no greater expence to the public than a moiety of the expenditure thrown away upon a uſeleſs fortreſs.

The war at the Revolution employed 45,000 ſeamen. The number hath increaſed every ſucceeding war; and in 1782 it amounted to 100,000. The great efforts which France, aided by America, is now making in the naval department, require the ſame attention on our part, and in all probability the Britiſh fleet, at the breaking out of another war, will far

the rapid increaſe of trade with the mother country and the Weſt Indies, will in a few years employ 2 or 3000 Britiſh ſeamen. On the other hand, the Newfoundland fiſheries will in all probability fall chiefly into the hands of France, Nova Scotia, and the northern States of America.

† At the Union, and ſome time after, from 6 to 800 boats were engaged in the herring fiſhery upon the Forth, and each boat employed 8 or 9 men. The fiſhery in the Murray Firth employed from 5 to 700 boats, of a ſmaller conſtruction, and navigated by 6 or 7 men each. Theſe fiſheries have, for want of due encouragement, much declined. But the great fiſheries are thoſe on the weſtern and northern ſhores, of which the reader will find a circumſtantial account in the following narrative.

exceed

exceed that of the preſent period, great as it is. An additional number of men will conſequently be wanted: and as the manning of the navy hath ever been attended with conſiderable difficulty and expence to government, and with circumſtances of oppreſſion towards many who are dragged into that ſervice againſt their conſent; there is not, in the whole ſyſtem of Britiſh politics, an object of greater importance to the defence and proſperity of the kingdoms, than that of increaſing the number of hardy, intrepid ſeamen, by means of the northern fiſheries and coaſting trade. The arguments for a vigorous attention to this national object derive additional force from the ſober manners and tractable diſpoſitions of thoſe men, a circumſtance well known to the naval officers, and much approved of by them.

Scotland conſidered as a commercial Nation, and its great importance to England in that view—Some Propoſals for a more liberal Syſtem of Polity relative to Scotland, with conjectural Eſtimates of the beneficial Conſequences which would flow therefrom, to the whole Iſland.

It hath been obſerved, that a ſpirit of induſtry, trade, and rural improvements, began to revive in Scotland about the year 1727, in conſequence of the American commerce carried on from Glaſgow, and of ſome ſalutary, tho' incomplete meaſures of government reſpecting the linen manufactures, and the weſtern fiſheries, by which the whole kingdom was more or leſs benefited. Since that time, more eſpecially from the year 1750, the demand in Scotland for Engliſh manufactures, and various foreign articles thro' the channel of London, as ſilk, drugs, tea, and India goods, gradually increaſed, till the fatal commencement of the American war in 1775, when the annual value of Engliſh exports to Scotland had amounted to — — — £. 2,000,000

The ready money ſpent by the Scots nobility and gentry reſiding in England — 500,000

Ditto, by traders, and other perſons, in their periodical journies to London; alſo in remittances to boarding ſchools, academies, and for a variety of other purpoſes —	100,000
	£. 2,600,000

In 1696, was eſtabliſhed in England, the office of inſpector-general of the value of exports and imports to, and from, all parts of the world; and in 1697, the amount of exports was found to be £. 3,525,906

Annual exports to Scotland only, between 1763 and 1775; including alſo, the money ſpent in England by the natives of Scotland —	2,600,000
	£. 925,906

being within a million of the whole exports of England, in the memory of man. The ſuperiority of Scotland in a commercial view, at the preſent period, to any other channel or ſource of trade, will further appear from the following comparative ſtatement, taken from Sir Charles Whitworth's Commercial Tables for 1771, that being the higheſt year of Engliſh exports, particularly to the American States, where the imports from this kingdom never amounted to 1,800,000l. upon an average of years.

	Imports from	Exports to
Africa — —	97,486	712,538
Canaries —	6,803	23,825
Denmark and Norway	83,711	152,340
Eaſt Country —	195,357	95,961
Eaſt India —	1,882,139	1,184,824
Flanders —	142,138	861,777
France —	51,645	146,128
Germany —	765,774	1,316,492
Greenland —	13,803	10
Holland —	428,080	1,685,397
Ireland —	1,380,737	1,983,818
Italy —	947,138	782,582
Madeiras —	2,067	11,213

Por-

	Imports from	Exports to
Portugal - -	354,631	716,122
Ruſſia -	1,274,620	150,159
Spain - -	568,323	1,224,811
Streights -	3,604	153,323
Sweden -	157,851	64,180
Turkey - -	100,443	20,573
Venice -	83,335	73,956
Guernſey, Jerſey and Alderney	56,802	58,565
North America -	1,468,941	4,586,886
Weſt Indies -	2,716,569	1,151,360
Spaniſh Weſt Indies	39,988	4,301
£.	12,821,995	17,161,146

Since the year 1748, the annual amount of Engliſh imports hath gradually increaſed from 9 to 12,000,000l. while that of exports from 1771 hath been gradually decreaſing, inſomuch that the balance, which, upon an average of 50 years previous to 1771, had been above 4,000,000l. in favour of England, did not, at the concluſion of the late war, amount to 1,000,000l. after deducting the value of ſtores and other ſupplies for the army and navy. Nor are there any good grounds to hope, that the national exports to foreign parts will again produce a balance of 4,000,000l. or even half of that ſum, for a permanency of years.

The balance with Ruſſia, Sweden, and other countries upon the Baltic, hath always been againſt England, owing to the importance of the articles which we receive from thence, to manufactures, and the navy. Our exports to Portugal, Italy, Turkey, and the Streights, have lately decreaſed to the amount of a million annually, which France hath gained; and ſimilar deficiencies, by means of that politic nation, may be expected with other European kingdoms, the trade of Ruſſia excepted.

In America, the proſpect is ſtill more gloomy. As thoſe ſtates are ſeducing artiſts and manufacturers from all the commercial nations of Europe, and as their country abounds in raw materials, as iron, copper,

timber, furs, peltry, cotton, hemp, flax, indigo, and ſilk; it may be preſumed, that they will reſtrict their imports from this country to ſuch articles only as they cannot raiſe within themſelves, and, inſtead of being a general cuſtomer, become a rival much ſooner than we imagine.

The ſame may be ſaid of Ireland, whoſe non-importation agreements furniſh matter of ſerious concern.

Upon the whole, the luxury of the times hath conſiderably increaſed our imports, while the exertions of France, the independence of Ireland, and America, have ſo greatly abridged our exports, as to bring both nearly to a par. And though the commercial balance is decreaſed, or nearly annihilated, the drain of ſpecie, by the Eaſt India Company, ſmuggling, the intereſt of public debts paid to foreigners, and remittances to abſentees; amounting to more than 2,000,000l. annually, remains the ſame; which emiſſions will ſoon be attended with very alarming conſequences, unleſs ſpeedily checked, or new ſources of commerce are opened.

Some of the negative remedies to theſe unfavourable circumſtances are now the ſubject of parliamentary diſcuſſion; others, we would gladly hope, will be brought forward in gradual ſucceſſion, while the productive ſources of a commercial balance demand an equal degree of attention. We perceive from the foregoing tables and eſtimates, that, as the Scottiſh fiſheries are the moſt valuable nurſeries for ſeamen, ſo is its trade, and its expenditures in England, the moſt beneficial to our manufactures. With ſome nations we carry on a loſing trade; from others we receive an uncertain balance; and even the tenure by which we poſſeſs our diſtant ſettlements, and the monopoly which we derive from them, are ſo extremely precarious, that it would be political inſanity to build our future proſpects upon ſuch ſpeculative ſources. Whereas, the benefits which flow from the northern part of the iſland are progreſſive and permanent; and, could we reconcile our minds to the idea of relinquiſhing a comparatively ſmall portion of revenue, the in-

flux of ſpecie from that country would be ſufficient for the important purpoſes of "feeding the circulation of the kingdom," and of a growing national wealth, admitting the balance with other countries to be upon an equality.

The income or wealth of Scotland, whether ariſing from rural improvements, the induſtry, and temperance of the people, or its commercial balances from foreign countries, center, and ever will center, with England. The gentry of the former kingdom have moſtly trebled their rents ſince the year 1750, yet they are not wealthier than their forefathers. On the contrary, the increaſe of income, though incredibly rapid, hath not, amongſt the generality of families, correſponded with their taſte for the elegancies, and the luxuries of a more opulent people, inſomuch, that eſtates are conſtantly upon ſale, the old families gradually diſappear, and the landed property falls into new hands, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, and other trading towns. This is the natural courſe of things with thoſe orders of men. Their rents are either ſpent by themſelves in England, or carried thither circuitouſly; nor will it ever be otherwiſe with the gentry of Scotland, while London continues to be a univerſal ſtorehouſe of whatever is pleaſing to the eye and the ſenſes; the centre of amuſements, affording irreſiſtible allurements for diſſipating, in a faſhionable ſtyle, the produce of their eſtates, and ſometimes more.

The inferior orders, as hath been obſerved, are equally emulous of Engliſh finery, a ſpecies of pride, which, while it ſtimulates induſtry in one kingdom, promotes manufactures in the other. Thus the foibles of the higher, and the virtues of the lower claſſes of people in Scotland, become ſubſervient to the opulence and proſperity of England, in a very conſiderable degree. Every man, who, through unremitting labour, gains the ſmall pittance of ſeven ſhillings weekly, becomes a cuſtomer to the wealthy Engliſh farmer, clothier, or draper, beſides bring-

ing forward a generation of new cuſtomers, by means of the excellent principles which he inſtills, and the example which he ſets before them.

We may therefore conſider the trade of Scotland as our principal mart, and the landed property of that kingdom as an inexhauſtible mine; from which channels flow a permanent influx of ſpecie, with this peculiar circumſtance in favour of thoſe ſources, that they require no fleets and armies, no waſte of lives, and of millions, to defend. From that country, therefore, we derive every poſſible benefit, negative and poſitive; and which, with the judicious appropriation of a ſuitable fund, will accumulate beyond conception; for it is to be remembered, that a very conſiderable part of the country is in a ſtate of nature; that other diſtricts admit of further improvement; and that the manufactures and commerce of the kingdom are moſtly limited to the three navigable rivers, and a portion of the eaſtern coaſt only. When a ſpirit of trade and improvements becomes more univerſal, pervading every ſhore, and every valley of the nation; and when the metropolis ſhall attract a more numerous reſort of wealthy ſtrangers, the conſequences will be proportionably great.

The good effects of vigorous meaſures, ſupported by aid of government, are boundleſs; of which the preſent century affords ſome ſtriking inſtances. Ruſſia, from an immenſe deſart, inhabited by Barbarians, and only known by name to the ſouthern ſtates of Europe, hath become inſtantaneouſly the ſeat of arts, ſcience, and literature; a general emporium of European and Aſiatic commerce; and bids fair in another century to equal, if not eclipſe, the moſt celebrated empires of the world.

The progreſs of the Britiſh American colonies, under the direction of their reſpective aſſemblies, aſſiſted liberally by the mother country, hath no parallel in the annals of antient or modern nations.

The preſent ſtate of Ireland, a country nearly ſimilar to Scotland in dimenſions, local ſituation, cli-

mate, and natural produce, requires on that account a more circumſtantial detail. That kingdom had been an expenſive burden to England, from the time when it became ſubject to the latter nation in the reign of Henry II. to that of Queen Elizabeth, including a period of 385 years.

" In 1573, the money which the queen had ſent to Ireland, ſince her acceſſion to the throne anno 1558, being computed, came to 490,779l.; whereas the whole produce of the revenue of Ireland, during all that time, amounted but to 120,000l." being 8000l. per annum.

" In 1641, part of the walls of Dublin fell down, which lay unrepaired for want of money until the Lords Juſtices ſent the citizens 40l. to advance that ſervice. In 1644, the citizens of Dublin were numbered, and found to be 5551 Proteſtants, and 2608 Papiſts, in all 8159." Corke and Waterford were ſtill leſs conſiderable; and it is beyond a doubt that the ports of Leith, St. Andrews, or Dundee, in Scotland, then carried on, and had for many ages, more foreign commerce than the whole kingdom of Ireland.

Towards the commencement of the preſent century, the parliament of Ireland began to direct its attention to national improvements, and with ſuch perſeverance and ſucceſs, that the public revenue, which in Queen Elizabeth's reign produced only 8000l. annually, amounts at preſent to 1,000,000l. though the exciſes, taxes, and duties, are ſo light as ſcarcely to be felt by the inhabitants.

Of this revenue the parliament allots a conſiderable moiety towards encouraging agriculture, induſtry, and manufactures, as appears by the Journals of that truly patriotic ſenate. By means of theſe ſupplies, and the judicious application of them, Ireland may, at this time, be conſidered both as a manufacturing, and a commercial country; and, promiſes to become, ſoon, a conſiderable emporium. The increaſe and ſplendour of Dublin correſpond with the growing wealth of the nation.

nation. That metropolis contains 100,000 inhabitants, it is ten miles in circumference, and its new ſtreets are commodious, and ſingularly elegant. The public buildings have a ſolidity and magnificence ſcarcely inferior to the ſtructures of antiquity; and it is the peculiar felicity of Ireland, that every corner of the kingdom proclaims the magnificent taſte of its ſenate.

If ſuch hath been the rapid tranſition from ignorance, ſloth, and extreme penury; to opulence, ſplendour, and national importance, in leſs than 90 years, what may not be expected from a civilized, induſtrious people, were they equally ſupported by adequate funds operating in every department, and amongſt all denominations, from the fiſherman and aged ſpinſter, to the counting-houſe of exports and imports? The education, ſober manners, and domeſtic turn of thoſe people, qualify them, moſt eminently, for meeting government half way in every beneficial meaſure, and no period ſince the Union required more vigorous efforts, on both ſides.

The loſs of the excluſive trade of America, the impediments to commerce and the fiſheries, in conſequence of a ſeven years war, have checked the progreſs of the weſtern parts, and reduced many families from affluent circumſtances to the verge of bankruptcy. The almoſt inſurmountable difficulties of the working people, in conſequence of frequent bad ſeaſons, and the ſucceſſive high prices of grain, attended at the ſame time with accumulating exciſes and taxes upon trade, and the neceſſaries of life, have filled the whole kingdom with murmurs, and ſeem to threaten a decreaſe of the linen manufacture, hitherto the national ſtaple, and, which alſo ſerves, in their traffic with England, as a ſubſtitute for ſpecie, that article being drained from the nation by other channels. The general decay of the fiſheries on the eaſtern ſhores, and the very injudicious impediments to that important branch throughout the whole kingdom, as

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enumerated in the ſubſequent detail, are objects alſo of the moſt ſerious concern.

Equally alarming is the late decreaſe of exports, to foreign countries, and the conſequent increaſe of an unfavourable balance, of which the following is an authentic ſtatement:

In 1770, the balance in favour of Scotland had arrived at	——	£. 514,556
1780, it fell to	—— —	99,315
1781, it was againſt Scotland	—	34,761
1782, it roſe to	—— —	155,313

And it ought to be obſerved, that, whether the commercial balance be in favour or againſt that kingdom, there is, and ever muſt be, a drain of ſpecie for grain, amounting to more than 200,000l. annually, upon an average of years; which, with the balance to England, and the remittances of rents as already ſtated, forms an aggregate far beyond the unaſſiſted exertions of Scotland to ſupport for a permanency of time. The conſequences of a loſing trade with foreign nations will be a proportionate decreaſe of imports from England, and of the balance in favour of that kingdom. Of the exports from Glaſgow previous to the American war, three-fourths were of Engliſh produce or manufacture. The exports of that city being now reduced, the commiſſions to England are proportionably abridged.

Upon the whole, the intereſt of Scotland is in every poſſible reſpect the intereſt of England. Both kingdoms are inſeparably united by nature, and they will riſe or fall together. All local diſtinctions ought therefore to ceaſe, and all perſons who endeavour to ſow, or keep up a flame of diſcord, ſhould be conſidered as enemies to their country, by deſtroying that harmony which conſtitutes our ſtrength, ſecurity, and reciprocal benefit.

Such is the relative ſituation, natural and political, of both countries, and ſuch their dependence upon each other. After, therefore, contemplating the ſubject in every point of view; the diſtreſſes under which

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Scotland labours from ſoil and climate, its great diſtance from the ſeat of government, its having no invigorating national aſſembly within itſelf, no adequate funds for the great purpoſes of general improvements; in conſideration alſo of the loſs of America, the drain of ſpecie by the nobility and gentry, and other objects as ſtated in theſe pages; the moſt efficacious means of ſupporting that country, and of promoting the general proſperity of Great Britain, would, I humbly conceive, be to aboliſh all taxes, duties, and exciſes in Scotland, the land-tax excepted; and, inſtead thereof, to ſubſtitute ſuch duties only, as ſhall ſeem neceſſary for the regulation of trade and commerce between both kingdoms; the produce of which duties, together with the land tax, to be veſted in the board of truſtees at Edinburgh, and to be by them applied, unalienably, to the improvement of Scotland, the encouragement of the fiſheries, manufactures, and other ſalutary purpoſes, as ſhall from time to time appear conducive to the proſperity of the kingdom, and the happineſs of the people.

And it is further ſubmitted to conſideration, whether the board of truſtees, conſiſting at preſent of 21 members only, ſhould not be eſtabliſhed upon a wider baſis, and to include, for the time being, the whole body of the nobility of Scotland, the lords of ſeſſion, barons of exchequer, the crown lawyers, and the miniſters, profeſſors, and magiſtrates of Edinburgh. In order ſtill further to combine the national force in one reſpectable eſtabliſhment, it is ſubmitted to conſideration, whether it would not be proper to conſolidate this board and the convention of the royal boroughs, the whole conſtituting a *Commercial Parliament, or College of Commerce*, entruſted with ſuch powers as government ſhall deem expedient.

An Inſtitution thus compoſed of perſons of the firſt eminence, would reſtore public ſpirit among the higher orders, call forth the exertion of mental powers, encourage general induſtry, revive the drooping mind,

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and gladden every heart. Each individual would find employment, and comfortable ſubſiſtence for his family; tumults, murmurings, and emigration, would ceaſe or abate; gratitude to majeſty, and an enlightened government, would pervade the kingdom, and the moſt diſtant iſlands.

Were further arguments neceſſary to enforce the expediency of theſe propoſitions, it might be obſerved, that the revenue of Scotland, though burthenſome to the people, is comparatively ſo very inconſiderable to that of England, that, were the pen drawn through every item of it, the deficiency in the eſtimate of ways and means would ſcarcely be obſervable; while the advantages, which would flow into England by the various channels which have been enumerated, would exceed credibility. Such was the main argument of the American colonies ſo late as the year 1776. They contended that the magnitude of their imports from the mother country included within it a productive revenue, and a profitable commerce, centering in Great Britain. The ſame reaſoning is applicable to Scotland. Exempt us, ſay they, from reſtraints on trade, from vexatious exciſes on our infant manufactures and the neceſſaries of life, from the expenſive burden of revenue officers, and you will gain a hundred-fold, by means of the profits of our induſtry, which will ultimately circulate in your manufacturing towns, and by the revenue upon your goods which we conſume. But, ſhould we, after thus contributing to your opulence and ſplendour, be deprived of every fourth candle, every fourth pound of ſoap, and buſhel of coals, we ſhall neither be able to weave nor bleach; our aged parents will languiſh through cold or famine; and the young men who promiſed to become beneficial cuſtomers will fly, indignantly, beyond the ſeas, and thus be loſt to their families, to their country, and to you.

Conſider, we beſeech you, whether a people labouring under every poſſible diſadvantage, natural and political, of whom two thirds live, or rather exiſt, upon meal,

meal, vegetables, and butter-milk, be proper objects whereon to lay, with the ſame indiſcriminate hand, the burdens of your ruinous wars, in which they had no concern, and from which they could derive no advantage. Conſider whether a bleak, narrow country, compoſed in general of rock, heath, and ſand; whoſe commercial balance of late with foreign nations, and at all times with you, hath been unfavourable, can ever produce an efficient revenue.

So completely drained is that kingdom of its ſpecie by England, that though at the time of the union the circulation amounted to nearly 1,000,000l. ſterling, the whole currency of the kingdom hath not for many years exceeded 200,000l. and even that trifling ſum is purchaſed in England for the purpoſe of ſupporting the circulation of the Scottiſh banks, at an expence of 4000l. per annum; nor can it be otherwiſe in a country where London bills often ſell at a premium of two per cent.

Upon the re-coinage ſome years ago, the ſpecie of Great Britain and Ireland was found to be nearly as follows, viz:

In England — —	£.	17,000,000
Ireland — —		3,000,000
Scotland — —		200,000
		20,200,000

And ſo unproductive is the revenue of that country, that the exciſes upon an average of 3 years, ending in 1773, raiſed only — — £. 95,229
The cuſtoms in ditto — — 68,369

Neat amount, (excluſive of the land-tax) in the collecting of which, the people were burdened with an expence of	163,598 43,254

Thus the country pays above one-fourth more than is received at the exchequer, and it is certain that many of the taxes ſcarcely defray the expence in collecting them. The exciſes have, however, increaſed conſiderably ſince 1773; and ſome writers unacquaint-

ed with the abilities of the country, or inattentive to the fallacious cauſes of that increaſe, exult on the imaginary flouriſhing ſtate of the kingdom, and the progreſſive revenue which may be expected to flow therefrom.

That this increaſe is derived from impolitic ſources, every reader will readily allow, when informed, that it ariſes chiefly from additional duties on ſalt, ſoap, printed cloths, and other articles highly prejudicial to fiſheries and manufactures; alſo from diſtilleries, tho' the kingdom depends upon other nations for daily ſupport in meal and grain.

Moſt certain it is that nature hath put a negative againſt productive revenue, and extenſive agriculture in that kingdom; enduing it, however, by means of other channels, with the ſources of employ, and active buſineſs. Were government, therefore, to follow this unerring guide, to co-operate with it in the great lines of political adminiſtration, and to conſider Scotland, not as an object of revenue, but of trade, the following eſtimates will ſhow the prodigious advantages that would flow to England from the propoſitions before ſtated.

Admitting 200,000l. annually to be the utmoſt extent of neat revenue in Scotland, and alſo the given ſum for its improvement, the progreſſive increaſe of population, naval ſtrength, imports from England, and the influx of ſpecie to that kingdom, would, we conjecture from the above-mentioned circumſtances, be found at the end of fifty years as follows:

We ſhall ſtate the population in 1784 at	1,300,000;	and in 1834 at	3,000,000
The men employed in the fiſheries in the beſt years	20,000	do.	50,000

The

The imports from England as they ſtood before the American war, nearly	£. 2,000,000	do.	4,000,000
Rents, &c. ſpent in England by Scotſmen	£. 600,000	do.	1,000,000

Whereas 10,000,000l. the amount of the above ſtated 200,000l. annually, for a period of fifty years, would be exhauſted in ſix months, if expended, agreeably to the old ſyſtem, in deſtructive war. Such would be the oppoſite effects in the operation of the ſame ſpecific ſum, circulating within our own iſland, upon the arts of peace; or laviſhed amongſt diſtant regions, in he proſecution of imaginary glory, external dominion, and fallacious channels of commercial monopoly.

Unhappily, the preſent ſituation of government, and its forlorn hope, the broken reed of the Ganges, afford no flattering proſpect that any arguments tending to the abridgment of the national finances will produce the deſired effect. The deduction of facts related in theſe pages, the ſtatement of poſitive grievances, and the expediency of redreſſing them, may, however, attract ſome notice, and diſpoſe our rulers to look favourably towards a people whoſe life is one continued ſtruggle, and whoſe patience is nearly exhauſted.

Suppoſing, therefore, that government ſhould not be diſpoſed to delegate the internal affairs of Scotland in the manner now ſuggeſted; but deſirous, at the ſame time, to give every poſſible relief conſiſtent with the abilities of the ſtate; in that caſe, a general reviſal of the civil policy of the kingdom, though leſs efficacious than the former propoſal, would be productive of eſſential benefits to every claſs of people.

For this purpoſe a committee of enquiry might be appointed, to take into conſideration the ſtate of the kingdom, beginning with thoſe objects which require

immediate attention, as the fiſheries, and inland navigation; the linen manufacture in all its branches; the unproductive exciſes or duties, which it would be expedient to aboliſh; the regulation of taxes partially impoſed on that part of the united kingdom *; the oppreſſive duties on coals †, and vexatious fees, or cuſtom-houſe dues, on ſmall craft navigating the Firths.

It would require a whole volume to enumerate, bring forward, and explain the various objects which await the attention of a committee thus appointed; and, as public ſpirit begins to revive amongſt the repreſentatives of North Britain, we entertain a hope that this ſeaſon of peace will be appropriated to theſe great purpoſes; we are the more confident in theſe expectations, from the conſideration that the age is more enlightened reſpecting the relative operations and effects of commerce. Writers of the firſt abilities have lately exploded that contracted ſyſtem which impoveriſhed the diſtant branches to aggrandize and enrich the centre: and, if we may judge from the adventitious propoſitions made to the American colonies by the earl of Carliſle, and the conceſſions made to Ireland; it would ſeem, that government hath

* "The carriages in common uſe, ſays Dr. Johnſon, are ſmall carts, drawn by one little horſe, and a man ſeems to derive ſome degree of dignity and importance from the reputation of poſſeſſing a two-horſe-cart;" but ſo unequal are ſome taxes levied, that theſe ſmall carts, whoſe loading do not probably amount to that of two wheel-barrows, are ſubject to the ſame duty as carts in England which contain ſix times the quantity.

† A portion of Scotland lying upon the Solway Firth, produces neither turf, coal, nor limeſtone. The two laſt articles are conſequently brought by an expenſive ſea carriage from Cumberland; and, though coals are unavoidably neceſſiary for the purpoſes of agriculture, and domeſtic uſe in that cold climate, a duty is levied upon the coals, when landed, of ſix ſhillings per chaldron. The miſerable Highlanders, and the whole northern parts of the kingdom, are alſo ſaddled with theſe impolitic burdens as mentioned in the following pages, ſo that in fact the people are ſtarved in a double ſenſe; and improvements thereby fruſtrated, where they ought to be vigorouſly encouraged. Theſe, and ſimilar inſtances which could be given, will ſerve to enforce the expediency of a parliamentary enquiry and redreſs.

happily adopted the ſame generous ſentiments. A conſcientious regard to the common rights of mankind knows no diſtinction of country, or local ſituation. Neither is it politic. From favours partially conferred, or burdens injudiciouſly impoſed, ariſe commotions, revolt, and civil war; while an equal diffuſion of benefits, protection, or redreſs, ſuited to caſes and circumſtances, is government founded on the ſure baſis of philoſophy, and political wiſdom; principles inſeparably connected, by the Ruler of the univerſe, for the benevolent purpoſe of uniting all the various parts of empire in one common intereſt.

The half-ſtarved Highlander, inured to the inclement ſeaſons and barren heaths of the 58th degree, is an improper object of taxation; but he ſupplies his country, and its ſugar iſlands, with fiſh; takes upon him the toils of war, refreſhes himſelf after the fatigues of the day, upon a bed of ſnow; and is always prepared to renew the march, or the attack, with new vigour. While, on the other hand, the opulent citizen of the 51ſt degree, is unqualified for ſuch exerciſes; but he contributes liberally to the revenue, ſupplies the ways and means, ſupports the credit of the ſtate, and the honour of the nation. Thus every denomination of ſubjects furniſh their quota to the general ſtock of commerce, revenue, ſtrength, or defence, and have an equal claim to the notice of government.

Having thus attempted to ſtate the relative ſituation of the various branches which compoſe the Britiſh empire in general, and the two Britiſh kingdoms in particular, with a view to that ſyſtem of policy which ſeems to be the moſt equitable, and moſt conducive to the benefit and ſecurity of the whole; I ſhall cloſe this part of the ſubject in the words of certain writers, whoſe diſtinguiſhed reputation, unanimity of ſentiment, and thorough knowledge of the true intereſt of their country, will eſtabliſh the poſitions which I have been endeavourting to enforce.

Mr.

Mr. Arthur Young. "Had the millions, and tens of millions, which have been expended on the original ſettlement and ſubſequent protection of the colonies, been laid out on the melioration of England, this kingdom would have had at preſent double the quantity of cultivated lands, and double the number of uſeful inhabitants."

Dean Tucker. "Suffice it to obſerve, that the wars of Europe for theſe 200 years laſt paſt, by the confeſſion of all parties, have really ended in the advantage of none, but to the manifeſt detriment of them all: ſuffice it further to remark, that had each of the contending powers employed their ſubjects in cultivating and improving ſuch lands as were clear of all diſputed titles, inſtead of aiming at more extended poſſeſſions, they had conſulted both their own and their people's greatneſs, much more efficaciouſly than all the victories of a Cæſar, or an Alexander."

The Dean, after enumerating the true principles and real cauſes of our increaſe of trade ſince the Revolution, proceeds thus:—"Now all theſe things co-operating together would render any country rich and flouriſhing, whether it had colonies or not: and this country in particular would have found the happy effects of them to a much greater degree than it now doth, were they not counter-acted by our luxury, our gambling, our frequent ruinous and expenſive wars, our colony-drains, and by that ill-gotten, and ill-ſpent wealth, which was obtained by robbing, plundering, and ſtarving the poor defenceleſs natives of the Eaſt-Indies.—A ſpecies of villainy this, for which the Engliſh language had not a name, 'till it adopted the word *nabobing*."

Lord Sheffield. "Fiſheries, coaſting trade, and northern voyages, produce hardy and intrepid ſeamen; African and Indian voyages deſtroy many, and debilitate more.

"It ſhould never be the policy of England to give a particular encouragement to ſedentary fiſheries, at

the diſtance of 3000 miles, as they interfere ſo much with the fiſheries carried on from the coaſts of Great Britain and Ireland.

" The fiſh from New-England and the country adjacent cannot be put in competition with the herrings ſent in great quantities from Scotland and Ireland; nor ſhould any regulation be made likely to affect this nurſery for ſeamen, which may be greatly increaſed with proper attention.

" If any thing like policy is preſerved in this nation, we ſhall have ſhip-building in every port and creek of Britain and Ireland, by the encouragement which we ought to give every fiſhery, and to every art connected with navigation.

" Nothing can be more impolitic, at leaſt in a commercial nation, than a fondneſs for foreign dominions, and a propenſity to encourage diſtant colonization, rather than to promote domeſtic induſtry and population at home. The internal trade of Great Britain is much greater than its external commerce. The beſt cuſtomers of the manufacturers of Britain are the people of Britain.

" Europe has been long wild and extravagant in looking towards America for every thing; fortunately for France, ſhe failed there, but in her purſuits loſt more glory than ſhe had attained elſewhere during a century. Spain has been impoveriſhed, and is much reduced below what ſhe was before ſhe ſuffered from her American deluſions. England ſurvives; and it is to be hoped will ſurvive her American misfortunes; that ſhe will learn wiſdom from what has happened; and that ſhe will no longer ſquander her riches heedleſsly at a diſtance, and out of her reach. Britain may have the good fortune to ſee her fiſheries ſurpaſs thoſe of the reſt of the world, and to raiſe five ſeamen of the beſt and hardieſt kind for one ſhe does now."

The Biſhop of Landaff having, in his Sermon before the Houſe of Lords, put the moſt favourable conſtruction

ſtruction upon the preſent ſtate of public affairs, ſums up the whole, in the following muſical language.

" But great and happy as we are, there is much room left for thoſe whom it may concern to make the attempt of rendering us greater and happier: and we ſincerely pray to God that all parties may be diſpoſed to do this, not by ſacrificing public confidence to private animoſity; the ſtability of government, to ſelfiſh or ambitious ſtruggles for power; not by indulging a proud propenſity to embrace the firſt favourable opportunity of regaining our glory, as it is called, by the renewal of war; not by proſecuting unjuſt views of commercial monopoly, or territorial conqueſt, in diſtant countries *; but by taking the moſt prudent meaſures at home, to heal our diviſions, and amend our morals; for the ſtrength, foreign and domeſtic, of every nation upon earth, muſt ultimately, under

* " I wiſh," ſays the Biſhop, " I could conſider our acquiſitions in Aſia as compenſating our loſſes in America; but they have been obtained, I fear, by unjuſt force, and on that account I cannot think that they will be uſeful to us. It requires little political ſagacity to foretell, that the natives will pay their tribute with reluctance; that it will be expended in the maintenance of the ſtanding army by which it muſt be collected; that our enemies in Europe, jealous of the reſources which we ſhall ſtand a chance of deriving from Aſia, will endeavour to counteract all our projects of intereſt and ambition, and to make that country another America to this nation."

The Eaſt India Company hath ever been obnoxious to the kingdom, inſomuch, that in the reign of King William, petitions were preſented from various parts of the country for its diſſolution. Even the Houſe of Commons addreſſed the King to the ſame purpoſe; but, ſays a hiſtorian of that period, " thoſe who had been the moſt warm in detecting abuſes ſuddenly cooled; and the proſecution of the affair began to languiſh."

The abuſes of the company's ſervants in latter times are well known, but ſtill it is contended,

1. " That the India trade is a valuable nurſery for ſeamen".—To this propoſition it hath already been obſerved that theſe very diſtant and ſultry voyages are the deſtroyers of that claſs of men.

2. " The trade to India is the grand channel of Engliſh commerce, and will enrich the kingdom by the magnitude of its exports and imports".—The exports to India, till we became poſſeſſed of the territorial revenue of that country, conſiſted chiefly of ſpecie for the purpoſe of completing the inveſtments or cargoes ſent from thence to England,

under God, depend on the union, and on the number of its inhabitants, and its happineſs on their VIRTUE."

The following periodical ſtatements of the value of goods exported thither ſince the commencement of the preſent century, compared with our exports to Holland, Germany, and Spain, are extracted from Sir Charles Whitworth's Commercial Tables; viz. we exported in

	To India.	Holland.	Germany.	Spain.
1700	126,697	1,765,951	629,997	610,212
1710	126,310	2,071,306	975,803	215,935
1720	83,811	1,915,112	760,224	499,324
1730	135 484	1,766 526	1,092,490	777,949
1740	281 751	1 754 204	1,091 061	101,635
1750	508,654	2,204 095	1,255,872	1,783,075
1760	1,161,670	1 784,442	1,544,016	1,048,222
1773	845,70,	1,873 860	1,337,552	839,072

The exports to Portugal uſed formerly to treble thoſe to India; and Flanders hath of late equalled, if not exceeded, the whole Eaſtern commerce. Thus our intercourſe with ſeveral kingdoms of Europe is incomparably ſuperior to that of India, and without any expence to government.

3. 'The Eaſt India trade produces a conſiderable revenue, and is conſequently a great ſupport to the ſtate.'—This is the charm which hath long influenced the Britiſh councils, and from which we may trace partly the diſmemberment of our empire, and the preſent embarraſſed ſituation of the kingdom. It is well known that the cargoes of tea ſent to America with a view to ſerve the India Company, and clogged with a duty of three pence per pound, renewed thoſe commotions which terminated in the loſs of that empire. For this alſo, we permit the Company to pour into theſe kingdoms whole cargoes of muſlins, callicoes, dimities, ſhawls, nankeen, china ware, and other Aſiatic manufactures, to the great injury of our merchants and traders, and by which 200,000 working people are deprived of their natural right. It hath alſo been alledged by many, that the heavy exciſes laid time after time, upon Britiſh printed cottons and linens, originate in Leaden-hall ſtreet.

Admitting this to be a groundleſs ſurmiſe, it is, however, beyond a doubt, that our Oriental connections have, in a general view, proved extremely prejudicial to the honour and intereſt of this nation. And it would ſeem, that the only means whereby that country may be rendered really and permanently ſerviceable to government and the community, would be to regulate its commerce by a general prohibition of all ſtuffs and cottons of whatever denomination, thoſe for re-exportation excepted. Theſe, with the raw materials, and other articles, the natural produce of Aſia, as ſilk, ſaltpetre, ſpices, drugs, tea, and diamonds, would ſtill enable the Company to carry on a reſpectable, ſure, and profitable trade and to reſtore their credit and their honour, without prejudice to India, or their native country.

A VIEW OF THE HIGHLANDS, &c.

Diviſions and Face of the Country.

SCOTLAND admits of two grand diviſions, the Lowlands and the Highlands.

The firſt diviſion comprehends the countries ſouthward of the Forth, with the eaſtern coaſt, as far north as Inverneſs. In this diviſion the language, manners and dreſs of the people are nearly the ſame as in England. This is alſo the moſt fertile and improved part of the kingdom, wherein are ſituated the towns of any note; the ſeats of manufactures, commerce and navigation.

The ſecond diviſion comprehends the weſt ſide of the kingdom, from Cantire to the Pentland Firth, with the Hebride Iſles; alſo the interior parts of Scotland, from the Firth of Clyde, Loch Lomond and Loch Tay northward; and here the people ſpeak the Erſe or Gaulic language, dreſs in the antient Roman manner, and have, till of late years, lived almoſt in a ſtate of nature.

The face of the country, in this diviſion, exhibits one great maſs of rugged mountains, appearing in all manner of directions, covered on the ſides with heath

or natural woods, and on the ſummits with everlaſting ſnow. Theſe mountains are ſeparated from each other by vallies, ſtraths or glens; and, in ſome places, by narrow deep chaſms, darkened with timber, through which the united tributary ſtreams of the ſurrounding mountains roll with great impetuoſity, till they vent themſelves in ſome inland lake; but, more frequently, in the capacious bays formed by the Atlantic, on one ſide; or the Britiſh Sea, on the other ſide of the iſland.

The Hebrides, or Weſtern iſles, are about 300 in number, 40 of which are inhabited. In extent, collectively, they are nearly equal to Wales; they cover almoſt the whole weſtern coaſt of Scotland, and contained, before the late emigration, 48,000 people. The language, manners, dreſs and face of the country are ſimilar to thoſe of the oppoſite coaſt of the continent, but the timber hath been completely exhauſted.

The names of the principal iſlands, and the number of inhabitants before the late emigration to America,

Lewis, or Long Iſland — —	15000
Sky — — — —	15000
Iſla — — — —	7000
Mull — — —	5000
Liſmore — — —	1500
Jura — — —	1200
The leſſer Iſles — —	3300
	48000

The Diſtreſſes of the Highlanders.

Such being the natural ſtate of the Highlands, the only parts capable of agriculture are the vallies or glens around the baſes of the mountains; and theſe vallies having the ſun for a few hours only, vegeta-

tion

tion advances ſlowly, and the harveſts are always late. The climate is equally diſcouraging to the purpoſes of huſbandry. The ſpring is bleak and piercing; the ſummer is cold and ſhort; the autumn, from the beginning of Auguſt, deluged with rains; the winter long and tempeſtuous. During the latter ſeaſon the people are cut off from all communication with the Low Countries, by deep beds of ſnow, impaſſable torrents, pathleſs mountains and moraſſes on the one ſide; by a long and almoſt impracticable navigation on the other.

To theſe accumulated diſcouragements of nature, are added the oppreſſions and ill-judged policy of many proprietors of thoſe ſterile lands, far beyond their natural value, were they even in hands more capable to improve them. Where both ſoil and climate conſpire againſt the raiſing of grain in any conſiderable quantity, and where there are no markets, poſſibly, within the diſtance of fifty miles, for the ſale of corn and the leſſer articles of husbandry, the farmer turns his attention chiefly to the grazing of a few cattle and ſheep, as the means whereby he expects to pay his rent, and ſupport his family. If, therefore, his farm hath been raiſed at the rate of 300 per cent. while the price of cattle hath ſcarcely advanced 100, this method of improving eſtates, as the proprietors term it, furniſhes a high-ſounding rent roll, extremely pleaſing to human vanity, but which, being founded upon oppreſſion, injuſtice and folly, hath hitherto proved fallacious and humiliating, to all thoſe who have perſevered in the cruel experiment.

Upon the whole, the ſituation of theſe people, inhabitants of Britain! is ſuch as no language can deſcribe, nor fancy conceive. If, with great labour and fatigue *, the farmer raiſes a ſlender crop of

* Inſtead of the plough, the farmers generally uſe the ſpade, partly through neceſſity, ariſing from the irregularity of the ſurface, and partly from antient cuſtom. The rainy ſeaſon commences about the firſt of Auguſt, and continues, with little inter-

oats and barley, the autumnal rains often baffle his utmoſt efforts, and fruſtrate all his expectations; and inſtead of being able to pay an exorbitant rent, he ſees his family in danger of periſhing during the enſuing winter, when he is precluded from any poſſibility of aſſiſtance elſewhere.

Nor are his cattle in a better ſituation: in ſummer they pick up a ſcanty ſupport amongſt the moraſſes, or heathy mountains; but in winter, when the grounds are covered with ſnow, and when the naked wilds afford neither ſhelter nor ſubſiſtence, the few cows, ſmall, lean, and ready to drop down through want of paſture, are brought into the hut where the family reſides, and frequently ſhare with them the ſmall ſtock of meal which had been purchaſed, or raiſed, for the family only; while the cattle thus ſuſtained, are bled, occaſionally, to afford nouriſhment for the children, after it hath been boiled, or made into cakes.

The ſheep, being left upon the open heaths, ſeek to ſhelter themſelves from the inclemency of the weather amongſt the hollows upon the lee-ſide of the mountains; and here they are frequently buried under the ſnow, for ſeveral weeks together, and in ſevere ſeaſons during two months or upwards. They eat their own and each other's wool, and hold out wonderfully under cold and hunger; but even in moderate winters, a conſiderable number are generally found dead after the ſnow hath diſappeared, and in rigorous ſeaſons few or none are left alive.

Meanwhile the ſteward, hard preſſed by letters from Almack's or Newmarket, demands the rent in a tone which makes no great allowance for unpropi-

miſſion, till November. When, therefore, the corn is cut down, which is performed by hooks, a number of ſheaves are piled together, and thatched on the top. In the firſt interval from rain, the thatch is taken off; and the ſheaves, if dry, are carried to the barn. This laborious work is repeated until the whole crop hath been thus ſecured.

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tious ſeaſons, the death of cattle, and other accidental misfortunes; diſguiſing the feelings of his own breaſt —his Honour's wants muſt at any rate be ſupplied, the bills muſt be duly negotiated.

Such is the ſtate of farming, if it may be ſo called, throughout the interior parts of the Highlands; but as that country hath an extenſive coaſt, and many iſlands, it may be ſuppoſed that the inhabitants of thoſe ſhores enjoy all the benefits of their maritime ſituation. This, however, is not the caſe: thoſe gifts of nature, which in any other commercial kingdom would have been rendered ſubſervient to the moſt valuable purpoſes, are in Scotland loſt, or nearly ſo, to the poor natives, and the public. The only difference therefore, between the inhabitants of the interior parts, and thoſe of the more diſtant coaſt, conſiſts in this; that the latter, with the labours of the field, have to encounter, alternately, the dangers of the ocean, and all the fatigues of navigation.

To the diſtreſſing circumſtances at home, as ſtated above, new difficulties and toils await the devoted farmer when abroad. He leaves his family in October, accompanied by his ſons, brothers, and frequently an aged parent, and embarks on board a ſmall open boat, in queſt of the herring fiſhery, with no other proviſion than oatmeal, potatoes, and freſh water; no other bedding than heath, twiggs or ſtraw, the covering, if any, an old ſail *. Thus provided, he ſearches from bay to bay, through turbulent ſeas, frequently for ſeveral weeks together, before the ſhoals of herrings are diſcovered †. The glad tidings

* The Highland dreſs, lately reſumed, is extremely uſeful to theſe people when on board, as well as in the field. The plaid contains ſundry yards of worſted ſtuff, which the Highlander wraps ſeveral times round his body, and lies down amidſt ſnow, hoary froſt, rain, or ſalt water, and thus repoſes himſelf.

† Though the arrival of the herrings be certain, and almoſt to a day, yet the particular lake, bay or channel to which they direct their

ings ſerve to vary, but not to diminiſh, his fatigues. Unremitting nightly labour (the time when the herrings are taken), pinching cold winds, heavy ſeas, uninhabited ſhores covered with ſnow, or deluged with rains, contribute towards filling up the meaſure of his diſtreſſes; while, to men of ſuch exquiſite feelings as the Highlanders generally poſſeſs, the ſcene which awaits him at home does it moſt effectually.

Having diſpoſed of his capture to the Buſſes, he returns in January through a long navigation, frequently amidſt unceaſing hurricanes, not to a comfortable home and a chearful family, but to a hut compoſed of turf, without windows, doors, or chimney, environed with ſnow, and almoſt hid from the eye by its aſtoniſhing depth. Upon entering this ſolitary manſion, he generally finds a part of his family, ſometimes the whole, lying upon heath or ſtraw, languiſhing through want, or epidemical diſeaſe; while the few ſurviving cows, which poſſeſs the other end of the cottage, inſtead of furniſhing further ſupplies of milk or blood, demand his immediate attention to keep them in exiſtence.

The ſeaſon now approaches when he is again to delve and labour the ground, on the ſame ſlender proſpect of a plentiful crop or a dry harveſt. The cattle which have ſurvived the famine of the winter, are turned out to the mountains; and, having put his domeſtic affairs into the beſt ſituation which a train of accumulated misfortunes admits of, he reſumes the oar, either in queſt of the herring, or the white fiſhery. If ſucceſsful in the latter, he ſets out in his open boat upon a voyage (taking the Hebrides and the oppoſite coaſt at a medium diſtance) of 200 miles, to vend his cargo of dried cod, ling, &c. at Greenock or Glaſgow. The produce, which ſeldom exceeds twelve or fifteen pounds, is laid out, in con-

their courſe, remains unknown, until the vaſt flight of Solan geeſe and other birds which attend the ſhoals, lead to a diſcovery.

junction

junction with his companions, upon meal, and fishing tackle; and he returns through the same tedious navigation.

The autumn calls his attention again to the field; the usual round of disappointment, fatigue and distress awaits him; thus dragging through a wretched existence, in the hope of soon arriving in that country where the weary shall be at rest.

Many other circumstances might be represented in this picture of human misery, of which I shall at present mention only two. In time of war, those who engage in the fisheries are liable to be pressed; while others, who travel from the most remote parts, without money or provisions, to earn 30 or 40 shillings in the Low Countries by harvest work, are often decoyed into the army, by stratagems which do no credit to the humanity of the age.

These virtuous but friendless men, while endeavouring, by every means in their power, to pay their rents, to support their wives, their children, their aged parents, and in all respects to act the part of honest, inoffensive subjects, are dragged away—they know not where—to fight the battles of nations who are insensible of their merits, and to obtain victories of which others are to reap the fruits.

The aged, the sick, and the helpless, look in vain for the return of their friends, from the voyage or the harvest. They are heard of no more. Lamentations, cries and despair pervade the village or the district. Thus deprived of their main support, the rent unpaid, the cattle sold or seized, whole families are reduced to the extremity of want, and turned out, amidst all the inclemencies of the winter, to relate their piteous tale, and to implore from the wretched, but hospitable Mountaineers, a little meal or milk, to preserve their infants from perishing, in their arms.

In this situation they wander towards the Lowlands, happy to find shelter at night from the chil-

ling winds, driving ſnow, or inceſſant rains, in ſome cavern or deſerted cottage; ſtill more happy, if chance hath provided their lodging with a little ſtraw or heath, whereon to lay their almoſt lifeleſs infants, the conſtant objects of their firſt attention amidſt all the calamitous viciſſitudes of life. Such is the hard lot of the great body of the people who inhabit a fifth part of our iſland. Neglected by Government; forſaken, or oppreſſed by the gentry; cut off, during moſt part of the year, by impaſſable mountains, and impracticable navigations, from the ſcenes of commerce, induſtry, and plenty; living at conſiderable diſtances from all human aid, without the neceſſaries of life, or any of thoſe comforts which might ſoften the rigour of their calamities; and depending, moſt generally, for the bare means of ſubſiſtence, on the precarious appearance of a veſſel freighted with meal or potatoes, to which they with eagerneſs reſort, though often at the diſtance of fifty miles. Upon the whole, the Highlands of Scotland, ſome few eſtates excepted, are the ſeats of oppreſſion, poverty, famine, anguiſh, and wild deſpair, exciting the pity of every traveller, while the virtues of the inhabitants attract his admiration.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the reſentments of human nature ſhould burſt forth, upon the firſt opportunity, againſt thoſe, who, inſtead of labouring to mitigate their diſtreſſes, were daily adding new oppreſſions; till having, by thoſe means, deſolated whole diſtricts of the country, the deluſion vaniſhed, and they found themſelves under the ſhameful neceſſity of purchaſing cattle and ſheep to graze the deſerted heaths.

This humiliating circumſtance was facilitated by an event which their penetration had not foreſeen. The Highlanders, who had ſerved in the American war, being, by royal proclamation, entitled to ſettlements in that extenſive country, were deſirous that their kindred and friends ſhould partake of their good

fortune. Some tranſmitted their ſentiments by letters; others, returning from thence to pay a farewell viſit to their native land, delivered their opinions perſonally, and all agreed in their encomiums upon the new world. They exhorted their countrymen to exchange their barren heaths for the boundleſs plains of America; they declaimed upon the ſoftneſs of the climate, the fertility of the ſoil, the abundance of proviſions, the exemption from * taxes; the opulence, eaſe, and luxury of the people.

Theſe alluring deſcriptions had the deſired effect upon the imaginations of men naturally warm, and

* Taxation in America was hitherto ſo ſlight as ſcarcely to be felt by the inhabitants; but, after the ſeparation of thoſe ſtates from Great Britain, new taxes and duties were introduced, as a prelude to others which muſt be levied, to diſcharge the intereſt of public debts, defray the expences of the civil, military, and naval eſtabliſhments, and other national purpoſes, to which every ſtate, however ſmall, is ſubject.

Theſe remarks are inſerted, in this place, chiefly for the information of thoſe claſſes of men, who being ignorant of the political revolutions which have lately happened in the weſtern world, and the heavy burdens which muſt unavoidably be laid upon every individual, may ſtill be allured, by ſpecious deſcriptions, to abandon their native land.

More powerful arguments againſt emigration remain to be mentioned. The ſoil of thoſe infant ſtates is in general very productive; but, it is well known, that the ſudden tranſitions from extreme heat, to extreme cold; the long fogs, extenſive marſhes, and exceſſive rains, produce a train of diſeaſes very fatal to Britiſh conſtitutions; beſides the almoſt inceſſant ſtings of Muſketos and other inſects, peculiar to America, during the ſummer months.

The only provinces exempted from taxation, are Canada and Nova-Scotia, which ſtill compoſe a part of the Britiſh empire, enjoying all the benefits of its protection, commerce, laws and conſtitution; but thoſe countries are covered with froſt and ſnow from November till April, which oblige the inhabitants to dreſs in ſkins and furs, and cut off all communication between Canada and Europe during ſeven months in the year. Whoever, therefore, prefers America to the temperate, wholeſome climate of Great Britain, will find themſelves greatly diſappointed; and even the Highlands of Scotland may, with a little aſſiſtance, be rendered a more deſirable place of reſidence to its natives, than any part of the American hemiſphere.

impatient

impatient of injuries. The Highlanders now firſt began to look on their native country with contempt, and upon their oppreſſors with indignation.—Shall we, ſaid they, remain in theſe miſerable huts, the objects of deriſion, without the common neceſſaries of life, or the proſpect of better times? No! we will depart to the great country beyond the ocean, where our labour will be rewarded, and our families comfortably maintained.

Such was the language, and ſuch the diſpoſition of the oppreſſed, the much-injured Highlanders, whether ſituated upon the continent, or amongſt the iſlands. In vain, did the landlords uſe the moſt perſuaſive arguments, offering terms, which formerly would have been gladly accepted. The heroic exploits of their anceſtors, the antiquity of the clan, the reſpect for the chief, no longer held the people in fetters. They began to think, and to act for themſelves. Whole groups of men, women and children, paſſed in continual ſucceſſion, to the ſea ports; and with ſuch determined reſolution, that thoſe who could not pay for their paſſage, ſold themſelves to the captains who were to tranſport them to the new world; and were, by theſe captains, re-ſold upon their arrival at the intended ports.

The Americans beheld this inundation of Britains with aſtoniſhment, mixed with contempt of that government, which thus permitted a continued drain of its inhabitants; while the looks, the dejection, the poverty and the tattered apparel of theſe unhappy wanderers, touched their feelings, and called forth the exertions of humanity. They could ſcarcely believe, that a people, whoſe valour they had ſo recently extolled, whom Wolfe admired, and whom Chatham applauded, ſhould be reduced to the ſad alternative of periſhing at home, or embarking with their families, on a voyage of 3000 miles, upon the hope of finding that relief in a ſtrange land, which

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their native and highly favoured iſland had denied them.

Thus, what Britain loſt, America gained; and it was not long before thoſe very men became the involuntary inſtruments of puniſhing the neglect of a country, which hath within itſelf the means of ſuſtaining a more numerous population.

It is difficult to aſcertain what diſtricts have ſuffered moſt by emigration; but certain it is, that between 1763 and 1775, above 20,000 people abandoned their habitations, beſides great numbers from the Lowlands; and there is reaſon to believe, that in a few years more, the whole Highlands would have been nearly depopulated, except thoſe diſtricts under the paternal care of an Argyle, an Athole, a Breadalbane, and a few other patriotic chieftains. But while the rage of emigration was thus depopulating the North, an order of Congreſs ſhut up the ports of America, and prohibited, under ſevere penalties, all intercourſe with Great Britain. To this ſingular event, more than to the foſtering hand of government, is owing the detention of thoſe people, whoſe calamitous ſituation hath been the ſubject of the foregoing pages, and whom to retain at home by ſuitable encouragement, will be the ſubject of what follows.

The Manners of the Highlanders in former Times.

When a barren country is ſuffered to remain in a ſtate of nature, without arts, manufactures and commerce, the inhabitants, impelled by the irreſiſtible demands of hunger, ſeize the cattle and ſometimes the corn of the more fertile plains, which they conſider as lawful prey, without ever reflecting on the diſtreſſes which they thereby bring on the injured proprietors.

To

To ſuch cauſes were owing the frequent irruptions of armed Highlanders upon the Low Countries, to which they proved a continual terror, notwithſtanding all the ſpirited efforts of the Scottiſh princes to check their predatory inroads. Their mountains not affording them the means of ſubſiſtence, and being utterly unacquainted with the arts of civil life, they partly lived by plunder and the ſpoils of the unprotected frontiers. Having concerted the plan of operations, they iſſued forth in the night time, ſlept amidſt the heaths and rocks through the day, and thus reaching the ſcene of action, while mankind were at reſt, they drove off the cattle and ſheep into the defiles and labyrinths of the mountains, far beyond the reach of purſuit, with any proſpect of ſucceſs, or perſonal ſafety.

Thoſe habits having been handed down from father to ſon, were conſidered as laudable induſtry, the incumbent duty of the young and the brave, the atchievements of valour, by which lovers recommended themſelves to the favour of their miſtreſſes; and ſo far were the Highlanders from having any idea of criminality in ſuch practices, that prayers were made to Heaven for ſucceſs to every intended enterprize, and for the ſafe return of thoſe who were to embark in them. The parent who could not beſtow much dowry with his daughter upon her marriage, conſoled the bridegroom with the produce of the next full moon, and thus he portioned off his family *.

* "The law hath come the length of Roſsſhire," ſaid one neighbour by way of news to another; "O ho!" replied he, "if God doth not ſtop it, you will ſoon have it nearer home." Every clan had however laws of their own enacting, to which they paid implicit obedience. Theſe laws were few and general, and ſtrongly mark the ſimplicity of rude ages. The marches of the barons or chiefs, were fixed in the preſence of two or more ſagacious men, and two young lads were whipped with thongs of leather, that they might the better remember the tranſaction. Criminals were often ſuffered to faſt for ſeveral days, and afterwards killed with a ſurfeit.

Such

Such were the manners and modes of life in the Highlands, ſo late as the year 1748, when the legiſlature wiſely diſſolved the feudal tenures, broke the authority of the chieftains over their vaſſals, and veſted the produce of the forfeited eſtates in truſtees, for the eſtabliſhment of charity ſchools, and civilizing the people. The beneficial effects of theſe meaſures greatly exceeded the expectations of thoſe who had propoſed them; inſomuch that, throughout the annals of mankind, there is ſcarcely an inſtance of a great body of people having been reclaimed ſo rapidly, from ferocious barbarianiſm to inoffenſive, peaceable ſubjects. The tranſition was almoſt inſtantaneous, and ſtrongly marks the diſcernment and good ſenſe of the inhabitants, as well as the pious, indefatigable labours of the few clergymen who were appointed, upon very ſlender ſalaries, to reclaim their manners, to ſuperintend their morals, and to enforce, by precept and example, obedience to divine and human laws.

Thus far, the legiſlature were entitled to the tribute of applauſe; but after having made a ſucceſsful beginning in the great work of provincial reformation, they at once abandoned the Highlanders, civilized indeed, but otherwiſe in a more diſtreſsful ſituation than while under the immediate controul of their chieftains. No villages, magazines, or harbours were formed, or manufactures introduced, by which the people might be uſefully employed, and a permanent, valuable colony eſtabliſhed. Succeeding adminiſtrations have ſeen, and acknowledged, their fidelity and importance; but have taken no effectual ſteps to meliorate their diſtreſſes, to reconcile them to their inhoſpitable ſhores, to give protection to the injured, bread to the hungry, employment to the induſtrious; nor hath the ſmalleſt ray of hope been held out, whereby they might expect to ſee better days! On the contrary, it ſeems to be a political maxim with many perſons, that the Highlands of Scotland are

to

to be conſidered merely as a nurſery for ſoldiers and ſeamen; that the inhabitants, formed admirably by nature for the fatigues of the campaign and the ocean, are to be employed in theſe capacities alone, as the occaſions of the ſtate may require; and that, to facilitate the buſineſs of recruiting, it is expedient to keep them low. But as every plan of policy which is founded upon wrong principles, muſt ſooner or later defeat its own purpoſes, ſo hath government ſeen itſelf nearly deprived of thoſe men who were thus devoted to ſtarvation, at home; or to fall by the ſword, abroad.

The Character of the modern Highlanders, and their qualifications for the arts of civil life, as well as thoſe of war.

THE Highlanders have in all ages been renowned for bravery and fidelity, in the cauſe which they eſpouſed: ſtrongly attached to their families, their chieftains and country, for whom they braved all dangers, and endured every kind of hardſhips. At preſent that barbarous ferocity, which was the offſpring of feudal inſtitutions, is completely extinguiſhed; while their native valour, and military character, remain unimpaired. They are intelligent, hoſpitable, religious, inoffenſive in their manners, ſubmiſſive to ſuperiors, temperate, frugal, grateful, obliging, honeſt and faithful. A man may travel in perfect ſecurity from one extremity of the Highlands to the other, without taking any precaution whatever in defence of his perſon or property. Wherever he goes, he meets with a civility, modeſty, and hoſpitality, which would do honour to the moſt poliſhed nations; wherever he repoſes any confidence, he diſcovers an attachment and diſintereſted readineſs to oblige, which more opulent ſubjects, can ſcarcely conceive in idea. Theſe qualities are the univerſal theme of travellers

of

of whatever nation, who have lately viſited the Highlands of Scotland *.

To ſum up the whole, they are a hardy, brave race of men, equally qualified for the domeſtic, the naval, and military line; nor is there an inſtance amongſt them, of cowardice, treachery, or flinching, during all the dangers and fatigues of the preſent and former wars, wherein they have bore a conſiderable ſhare. "I truſted, exclaimed Lord Chatham in parliament, to the mountains of the north, to carry on the moſt extenſive war in which England had ever been engaged." This was the declaration of the ableſt, moſt impartial and diſintereſted miniſter of the age; one who had penetration to diſcern, can-

* This character of the Highlanders may, by ſome perſons, be conſidered as too flattering; but, upon conſidering it over and over, I cannot, in juſtice, retrench a ſingle word. It is the language of truth, inſerted as a memorial of virtues which do honour to the preſent age, and are worthy the imitation of poſterity.

In rapid marches and ſudden attacks, the Highlanders are unequalled. During a long march, a regiment of theſe men keeps up with the cavalry. If a diſtant coaſt is invaded, or a poſt in danger, the Highlanders are collected at an hour's notice: they ſet off, and continue their march with incredible ſwiftneſs, leaving all other troops, panting and breathleſs, far behind. The French tremble at the ſight of them, calling out, *the Engliſh lions!*

A ſtriking inſtance of their fidelity happened after the battle of Culloden, when the young Pretender found ſafety during ſix months amongſt theſe people, though perſonally known to ſome hundreds of the loweſt ranks, and a reward of thirty thouſand pounds had been offered to any perſon who would deliver him up.

"Kindneſs and hoſpitality poſſeſs the people of theſe parts. We ſcarce paſſed a farm but the good woman, long before our approach, ſallied out and ſtood on the road ſide, holding out to us a bowl of milk or whey." *Pennant.*

"It need not, I ſuppoſe, be mentioned, that in countries ſo little frequented as the Iſlands, there are no houſes where travellers are entertained for money. He that wanders about theſe wilds, either procures recommendations to thoſe whoſe habitations lie near his way, or, when night and wearineſs come upon him, takes the chance of general hoſpitality. If he finds only a cottage, he can expect little more than ſhelter; for the cottagers have little more for themſelves; but if his good fortune brings him to the reſidence of a gentleman, he will be glad of a ſtorm to prolong his ſtay." *Johnſon.*

dour

dour to acknowledge, and honeſty to reward real merit: whoſe elevated mind knew no diſtinction of country or people; no narrow partialities; but, in every reſpect, was eminently qualified for the great purpoſes of uniting, more cloſely, this wide extended empire; by a generous diffuſion of reciprocal benefits and privileges, throughout the various branches of which it was compoſed.

Till the days of that great man, the intrinſic value of the Highlanders, like the diamond in the mine, remained in obſcurity; ſome obſtructions removed, they ſhone forth at once a tractable, uſeful people, who might one day prove a conſiderable acquiſition to the commerce, as well as the internal ſtrength of Britain.

Such being the character, manners, and importance of the Highlanders, in their civilized ſtate, a minute review of their country and ſhores properly follows. Should theſe be found irreclaimable, or incapable of anſwering any valuable purpoſe to the inhabitants, and the community at large, it would be humane, and alſo good policy in government, to open an aſylum, in ſome other part of the iſland, for the overflow of theſe truly valuable people, inſtead of driving them, by hundreds, acroſs the Atlantic ocean.

On the contrary, ſhould the three hundred iſlands, and the extenſive line of coaſt upon the mainland, their numerous bays, lakes, and rivers, be found capable of being rendered the bulwark of our iſland, on that ſide; the great nurſery of hardy ſeamen and ſoldiers, to defend our ſettlements abroad; the chief repoſitory of fiſh, to ſupply the wants of the labouring people, and to extend the ſcale of commerce; ſhould theſe, and other objects, prove the certain conſequence of parliamentary attention; it is to be hoped that government will take that buſineſs into conſideration, before America ſhall again open a door for the diſſatisfied, from all parts of Britain, but more eſpecially for theſe hitherto neglected mountaineers.

Comparative

Comparative ſtate of the Highlands, and the northern countries of Europe, in reſpect of towns, commerce, and navigation.

IF we take our ſtand at the ſouth weſt extremity of Cantire, and look northward, along the double coaſt of the continent, and the Hebride iſlands, towards the Pentland Firth, we ſhall perceive no towns, markets, ſtorehouſes, granaries, manufactures, commerce, or ſhipping of any ſort *. If we extend the view from Cape Wrath eaſtward to Dungsby-Head, and from thence ſouthward to the Firth of Cromarty, we ſhall perceive a few places, dignified indeed with the high-ſounding appellations of royal boroughs, but which, in reality, are nothing more than ruinous villages, exhibiting all the ſymptoms of decay, poverty, and diſtreſs †.

Climate and ſoil, it hath been admitted, are greatly againſt that country; but this circumſtance, inſtead of diſcouraging government, ought to excite the moſt ſpeedy, vigorous meaſures, towards ſuch objects as nature points out to be both practicable and expedient.

Every member of the Britiſh parliament knows, that the countries of Europe which lie under the ſame latitudes as the Highlands of Scotland, and even beyond theſe latitudes, every where exhibit the ſtrongeſt proofs of public attention. Thoſe countries have, by dint of art, been rendered the ſeats of induſtry, and a happy mediocrity of fortune, which en-

* The village of Stronaway in Lewis excepted, where ſome Dutch families had been ſettled, but were unfortunately driven away during the Dutch wars in the laſt century. Theſe induſtrious people, during their ſhort ſtay, extended the fiſheries, and eſtabliſhed a petty navigation, both of which have been kept up, in ſome degree, by the natives, who can boaſt of more ſhipping than the whole weſt Highlands united; it conſiſts of three or four ſmall ſloops or brigs, which are profitably employed in the fiſheries, to the great benefit of the whole iſland.

† Theſe are Wick, Dornoch, Tain, Dingwall, and Fortroſe.

ables the great body of the people to live comfortably, under ſeverities of climate, which a Highlander can ſcarcely comprehend in idea.

They abound in large mercantile cities, and in capacious harbours; the works of incredible labour and expence; in vaſt fleets of ſhips, and the various produce of the four quarters of the globe; as

	Deg.	Min.
Archangel, formerly the only port of Ruſſia, and ſtill a large commercial town, lying in	64	30
Drontheim, a trading city in Norway,	63	15
Bergen, capital of ditto,	60	10
Abo, a city of Sweden,	60	5
Petersburg, capital of Ruſſia,	60	0
Cronſtadt, the arſenal and ſtation of the Ruſſian fleet,	60	0
Stockholm, capital of Sweden,	59	30
Chriſtiana, a large trading city in Norway,	59	5
Revel, ditto in Ruſſia,	59	0
Narva, ditto, ditto,	59	0
Gottenburgh, ditto in Sweden,	58	0
Riga, ditto in Ruſſia, lying in the medium latitude of the Highlands of Scotland,	57	0

The climate of thoſe countries admits of two ſeaſons only, viz. the ſummer, which begins in May, and ends in September; and the winter, which inſtantaneouſly binds up the earth in one continued froſt, ſhuts up the ports, and covers land and water with frozen ſnow, on which all manner of travelling is performed by means of ſledges. In this ſeaſon the inhabitants dreſs in furs or ſkins, which, however, do not prevent the frequent loſs of hands or limbs, through the intenſeneſs of the cold *.

It

* "Whenever, ſays Maupertuis in his journey through the northern parts of Sweden, we would taſte a little brandy, the only thing that could be kept liquid, our tongues and lips froze to the cup, and came away bloody: in a cold that congealed the fingers of ſome of us, and threatened us with ſtill more diſmal accidents. If we opened the door of a warm room, the external air inſtantly converted

It is therefore to the attention of their reſpective governments, more than the advantages of nature, that ſo many commercial cities have gradually ariſen in the north of Europe, within the ſpace of a few centuries, and that places hitherto obſcure are daily increaſing in wealth and magnitude.

With thoſe cities may be enumerated the Seven United Provinces, a country, which, though ſituated in more ſouthern latitudes, furniſhes no material articles for commerce, and ſcarcely a ſufficiency of grain for home conſumption. In extent of territory, thoſe Provinces do not exceed the Hebride Iſles, and their winters are more ſevere. But ſuch is the influence of an active, vigorous government, on manufactures, commerce, and population, that the Seven Provinces contain 113 cities, 1400 towns and conſiderable villages, and upwards of two millions of inhabitants.

This ſwampy country produces no raw materials for manufactures; yet the inhabitants are continually engaged in fabricating an endleſs variety of articles for ſale at home and abroad. They have no minerals, metals, or timber; yet their yards and warehouſes are ever prepared to ſupply the demands of Europe, and both the Indies, in thoſe articles. The coaſt is extremely dangerous, and the harbours are few; their ſhipping is however to be found in all the maritime parts of the world, while their own ports are the grand emporiums of European navigation. Their ſhores afford little or no fiſh for exportation, but they nevertheleſs foreſtal the European markets in thoſe fiſhes which are in moſt eſteem. They owed their firſt riſe to the herrings taken on the coaſts of Scotland, which they exported to all parts of Europe; bringing in return the produce of thoſe nations, and

converted all the vapour in it into ſnow, whirling it round in white vortexes. If we went abroad, we felt as if the air was tearing our breaſt in pieces. At the beginning of June, winter yielded up the earth and ſea; and we prepared for our departure to Stockholm."

thus gradually became the greateſt mart in the known world.

It is to the influence and example of theſe induſtrious people, that I am enabled to give two inſtances, nearer home, of the benefits reſulting from a proper attention to commerce and the fiſheries.

Kirkwall, capital of the Orkney iſlands, though ſituated a hundred miles north of the medium degree of the Hebrides, contains above three hundred houſes, moſt of them built of ſtone and lime, ſlated, and accommodated with kitchen gardens. The gentlemen alſo have good houſes on their eſtates, and enjoy moſt of the conveniencies of life, in conſiderable abundance. The farmers are, for the moſt part, better lodged than thoſe on the continent, or the Hebrides. The inhabitants of Kirkwall export ſome grain, malt, meal, beef, butter, feathers, ſkins of calves, otters, and ſeals; herrings, kelp, linen yarn and cloth, fine worſted ſtockings, and coarſe woollen goods.

By means of theſe articles, they traffic with the Dutch, Swediſh, and other buſſes which frequent their coaſts, during the fiſhing ſeaſons, when Kirkwall hath all the appearance of a continued fair. The inhabitants alſo carry on a ſmall commerce with Edinburgh, Newcaſtle, London, Norway, Hamburgh, Spain, and Portugal, thereby ſupplying themſelves with a variety of neceſſaries, and a ſmall balance in caſh.

One degree further north, are the Shetland Iſles, ſtill leſs indebted to ſoil and climate. Here the ſhorteſt day does not exceed five hours, and the winters continue till April, during which ſeaſon the winds are ſo high, and the ſea is ſo agitated, that thoſe iſlands are almoſt inacceſſible for ſeveral months, when the natives are cut off from all intercourſe with the world. Yet, even here, in lat. 60. 8. and amidſt barren rocks, ſtands the town of Lerwic, containing upwards of three hundred handſome houſes, and is every year

increaſing.

increaſing. In the neighbourhood, there are above a hundred gentlemen's families, lodged in ſtrong, well-built houſes, commodiouſly furniſhed, and whoſe tables are well ſupplied. Theſe iſlands being alſo much frequented by the Dutch, Swedes, &c. carry on a conſiderable trade with thoſe people, and ſome foreign commerce ſimilar to that of the Orkneys.

Thus the northern rocks of the Orkney and Shetland iſles, animated and inſtructed by the Dutch, preſume to trade with London, the Baltic, and the Mediterranean; while the more extenſive and ſoutherly iſlands of the Hebrides, and the whole weſtern coaſt of the continent, are not maſters of a ſingle town, manufacture, or decked veſſel, thoſe of Stronaway in Lewis excepted. The Orkneys contain one provincial ſynod, three presbyteries, twenty-eight pariſhes, and eighteen miniſters. In Sky, one of the Hebride iſlands, double the ſize of all the Orkneys, there are only ſeven pariſhes, and three houſes that are ſlated. As a concluſion to this comparative review, it may be remarked, that the town of Kirkwall in the Orkneys is rated higher in the tax roll, than all the towns of the Highlands united.

The Produce of the Highlands by Sea and Land.

Throughout the globe, Nature ſeems to have diſtributed her favours with a very impartial hand. To ſome parts, ſhe hath aſſigned mildneſs of climate; to others, luxuriancy of ſoil, the precious metals, valuable timber, or the riches of the ocean. If we except the frozen extremities of the earth, towards the poles, her gifts will be found admirably adapted to the various ſpecies of the animal creation, particularly man, who holds the higheſt rank in nature, and who fancies himſelf entitled to the unlimited uſe of whatever it contains. In conformity to this univerſal law, thoſe diſtricts of Scotland, called the Highlands, though little indebted to climate and ſoil, abound in riches,

which put them upon an equality with the moſt fertile regions of the world. Gold, ſilver, wine, ſpices, and the finer fruits, they have none: but the produce of the Highlands; of their ſeas, lakes, bays, and rivers; may, with proper management, obtain an influx of thoſe valuable articles, and whatever is neceſſary for the ſupport and comfort of life.

Grain is raiſed, though at preſent with much difficulty, ſufficient to maintain one third of the people; and, whenever the more fertile parts ſhall be inhabited by men of property, and knowledge in agriculture, the harveſts will be earlier, the autumnal rains partly avoided, and that valuable article of life greatly increaſed. The unexpected ſucceſs in the Low Countries, of late years, ſhould at leaſt induce the people in the Highlands, to try the ſame experiments.

Roots, vegetables, and common fruits, being leſs hurt by the rains, can be raiſed in any quantity; their potatoes and turnips, in particular, are more delicate, and pleaſant to the taſte, than thoſe of England. Flax is raiſed in tolerable plenty, and might be improved: hemp, in great abundance, and in high perfection.

Small, but hardy horſes, admirably ſuited to the labours of that rugged country, and which require little ſupport. They run wild among the mountains till they arrive at a proper age for labour, when ſome thouſands are annually driven to the ſouth, chiefly to the coal-pits at Newcaſtle.

But the abovementioned articles are only ſecondary conſiderations to the immenſe numbers of ſmall black cattle which this country ſends to the ſouth, ſome of them as far as the county of Norfolk, where, after being fed in rich paſtures, they ſell at a high price. It is by the breeding of cattle, that farmers inhabiting the interior country are enabled, in good ſeaſons, to pay the high rents impoſed on them; but this ſpecies of property is, in the Highlands, ſo precarious, as ſometimes

times to involve whole diſtricts in one general ſcene of diſtreſs.

Theſe indigent people are materially affected, whether the cattle die through want, or fall in their price, which is always regulated by the Engliſh markets. In either of theſe caſes, the farmers, having no other reſources, are under the melancholy neceſſity of removing elſewhere for ſupport. The ſize, and condition, of the Highland cattle might be greatly improved, by the introduction of clover, rye-graſs, lucerne, and turnips, for winter proviſion; as lately practiſed in the Low Countries, with great ſucceſs.

Sheep *, goats, various ſpecies of deer and game, abound in the Highlands; alſo water-fowl, in ſuch immenſe quantities, that it is difficult to give credit to the accounts which have been given of them by modern, as well as ancient writers, who have viſited the Hebrides †.

The

* See directions for the rearing of ſheep, in the appendix.

† They are thus deſcribed by the Rev. Mr. Macauly, who was appointed miſſionary, by the general Aſſembly of the church of Scotland, to the iſland of St. Kilda, a rock of three miles in length, and ſurrounded by ſundry leſſer ones.

" Theſe rocks are in ſummer totally covered with ſolan geeſe and other fowls, and appear at a diſtance like ſo many mountains covered with ſnow. The neſts of the ſolan geeſe, not to mention thoſe of other fowls, are ſo cloſe, that, when one walks between them, the hatching fowls on either ſide can always take hold of one's cloaths, and they will often ſit until they are attacked, rather than expoſe their eggs to the danger of being deſtroyed by the ſea-gulls; at the ſame time an equal number fly about, and furniſh food for their mates that are employed in hatching; and there are, beſides, large flocks of barren fowls of the different tribes that frequent the rocks of St. Kilda.

" The ſolan geeſe equal almoſt the tame ones in ſize. The common amuſements of the herring-fiſhers ſhew the great ſtrength of this fowl. The fiſhers fix a herring upon a board which has a ſmall weight under it, to ſink it a little below the ſurface of the ſea: the ſolan gooſe, obſerving the fiſh, darts down upon it perpendicularly, and with ſo much force, that he runs his bill irrecoverably through the board, and is taken up directly by the fiſhers.

" The

The weſtern coaſts of the continent, particularly the banks of the lakes, are generally fringed with natural woods, riſing beautifully from the ſhores towards the ſummits of the mountains. Theſe woods, ſome of which are twenty miles in length, are compoſed of oak, cheſnut, aſh, elder, elm, aſpine, hazel, larches, pine, and fir. In ſome parts of the interior country, as Brae Mar, the pines are from ten to twelve feet in circumference, and from ſixty to ninety feet in height, without a collateral branch; their age, two centuries.

Nor

" The ſolan geeſe repair to St. Kilda in the month of March, and continue there till after the beginning of November. Before the middle of that month, they, and all the other ſea-fowls that are fond of this coaſt, retire much about the ſame time into ſome other favourite regions; ſo that not a ſingle fowl belonging to their element is to be ſeen about St. Kilda, from the beginning of winter down to the middle of February. Before the young ſolan geeſe fly off, they are larger than their mothers, and the fat on their breaſts is ſometimes three inches deep. Into what quarter of the world theſe tribes of wild-fowl repair, after winter ſets in, whether into the northern ocean, the native country and winter quarters of herrings, in general, or into ſome other region near the ſun, or whether they be of the ſleeping kind, they who pry into the myſteries of natural hiſtory, or have converſed much with writers of voyages, can beſt explain. I ſhall only pretend to ſay, that theſe different nations of the feathered kind are taught to chuſe the propereſt habitations and feeding-places, and to ſhift their quarters ſeaſonably, by the unerring hand of God.

" From the account given above of the multitudes of ſea-fowls that ſeek their food on this coaſt, we may juſtly conclude, that there muſt be inexhauſtible ſtores of fiſh there. Let us for a moment confine our attention to the conſumption made by a ſingle ſpecies of fowls. The ſolan gooſe is almoſt infatiably voracious; he flies with great force and velocity, toils all the day, with very little intermiſſion, and digeſts his food in a very ſhort time; he diſdains to eat any thing worſe than herring or mackarel, unleſs it be in a very hungry place, which he takes care to avoid or abandon. We ſhall take it for granted, that there are 100,000 of that kind around the rocks of St. Kilda; and this calculation is by far too moderate, as no leſs than 20,000 of this kind are deſtroyed every year, including the young ones. We ſhall ſuppoſe, at the ſame time, that the ſolan geeſe ſojourn in theſe ſeas for about ſeven months of the year; that each of them deſtroys five herrings in a day; a ſubſiſtance infinitely

poor

Nor is it in natural woods only that the Highlands excel. While the ſturdy oak and the hardy pine, wave their branches over impending precipices, deriving vigour and ſtrength from the boiſterous elements of that climate, the vallies and narrow glens underneath give protection and ſuſtenance to plantations of a more delicate quality.

At Taymouth, the ſeat of the earl of Braedalbane, there is a double row of ſtraight lime trees, whoſe branches, at the height of eighty feet, unite ſo cloſely, and with ſuch regularity, as to form one of the moſt magnificent arches in the world. This aſtoniſhing effort of nature aſſiſted by art, is, however, loſt amidſt extenſive plantations, containing many millions of trees of various ſpecies, and all in the utmoſt perfection. The Tay, which glides gently through this valley, is almoſt hid from the eye, while the lofty hills on each ſide exhibit a view which aſtoniſhes every beholder. Theſe were the works of the late earl of Braedalbane, who thereby ſet an example worthy the imitation of all thoſe who wiſh to improve their lands, and ornament their country.

poor for ſo greedy a creature, unleſs it were more than half ſupported at the expence of other fiſhes. Here we have 100,000,000 of the fineſt fiſh in the world devoured annually by a ſingle ſpecies of the St. Kilda ſea-fowls.

"If in the next place it be conſidered, that much the greateſt part of the other tribes have much the ſame appetite for herring, and purſue it from place to place, in the ſeveral migrations it makes from one ſea to another, the conſumption muſt be prodigiouſly great. Taking theſe into the account, and allowing them the ſame quantity of food, and of the ſame kind, by reaſon of their vaſt ſuperiority in point of numbers, though their ſtomachs are conſiderably weaker; we ſee there are no leſs than 200,000,000 of herrings ſwallowed up every year by the birds of a very ſmall diſtrict of rocks, which occupy ſo inconſiderable a ſpace in the Ducaledonian ocean.

"Should all the articles of this account be ſuſtained, articles which ſeem no leſs juſt than plain, and ſhould our curioſity lead us into a new calculation, allowing between ſix and ſeven hundred to every barrel, it is evident that more than 330,000 barrels are annually carried away by ſuch creatures."

Contiguous

Contiguous to this eſtate, is that of the duke of Athole, equally obligated to the two laſt proprietors, for every aſſiſtance which nature can receive from art. The works of thoſe illuſtrious patriots, begin to appear ſome miles above Blair, and are continued, without intermiſſion, to Birnam Wood below Dunkeld, the whole length meaſuring near thirty miles. In this extenſive valley, the beautiful meanders of the Tay and the Tumel, are every where ſhaded with exotic, as well as native trees, and all of them in a thriving condition.

Thus, in a country where nature hath denied the means of ſucceſsful agriculture, that kind parent points out to the inhabitants a progreſſive, inexhauſtible ſource of wealth, which cannot be injured by unpropitious ſeaſons, the events of war, or the revolutions of empire. Nor doth it require the expence, and labour ſo neceſſary for the raiſing of thoſe ſcanty crops of oats and barley, which neither enrich the landlord, nor ſupply the wants of the tenant. On the contrary, a gentleman ſelects the moſt barren tracts of his eſtate; rocks, ſands, gravel, and other waſte grounds, unfit for agriculture or grazing. On theſe wilds, he plants a million of firs, pines, and larches; which, at the expiration of thirty years, will bring, upon the loweſt average, and in the moſt remote ſituations, one ſhilling each, or 50,000 £. for the whole; and when arts and commerce ſhall be introduced into theſe parts, the value will be doubled, as appears from recent inſtances in the neighbourhood of trading towns, where trees of this age have brought from one ſhilling and ſix pence, to three ſhillings each.

Few gentlemen in Scotland are unacquainted with the value of that ſmall ſpecies of oak, which grows ſpontaneouſly upon the hills and rocks. The bark ſupplies the tanner, the net, and ſail-maker; the wood is conſumed in various works of glaſs and metal. Theſe oaks are cut down every 20 or 25 years. The price is regulated by the demand; and the demand,

by the progreſſive ſtate of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in theſe kingdoms: conſequently the value of this timber is continually advancing, inſomuch that a wood, which would bring only 1000 £. twenty-five years ago, now ſells at 1500 £.

This branch therefore, opens a new field of action to all thoſe who have wiſdom to avail themſelves of it. By thus attending to ſuch objects as nature dictates to be both practicable and profitable, the Highlands will become an immenſe foreſt, enriching the landlords, and giving employment to the hitherto ſtarved commonality, in the various occupations of encloſing, planting, cutting down, peeling off the bark, ſawing and tranſporting both timber and bark, to diſtant markets.

It is well known that Norway, a country bound up in froſt and ſnow nine months in the year, loads ſeveral hundred veſſels annually with maſts, planks, and deals, the produce of the fir *.

In England, the full grown oak, and other timber, conſtitute a conſiderable portion of the landed property of that kingdom. The leſſer timber is ſold in faggots, or by the cart-load, and uſed for a variety of purpoſes. The large trees, many of which bring five pounds and upwards, are conveyed to the capital and elſewhere, by an incredible number of barges which navigate the rivers and canals, beſides the cargoes, ſent coaſtways.

But theſe ſupplies, though great, are far from anſwering the demands of a kingdom, whoſe villages are riſing to the magnitude of cities, and where the ſhipping is continually upon the increaſe. The foreſts of Norway, the Baltic, Germany, and North America, load many hundred large ſhips annually for the Britiſh ports, though burdened with inſurance and high freight, which muſt unavoidably enhance the price †.

Here

* The method of raiſing oak and fir to full maturity in Scotland, will be found in the Appendix.

† The timber imported from Holland, Hamburgh, and the Baltic, comes chiefly from the interior parts of Germany, Poland and Ruſſia,

Here therefore the produce of the Scottiſh mountains and vallies will always find a good market, and an inexhauſtible vent. Inſtead of a petty traffic from one iſland to another, in little open boats, theſe weſtern ſhores will contribute their quota to the ſupply of the capital, in timber, ſlate, lead, and fiſh; while that city will, in return, ſupply the neceſſary wants of thoſe ſhores; thus opening new channels of commerce and navigation to the mutual benefit of individuals, and giving, at the ſame time, additional ſtrength to the Britiſh navy.

Copper hath been diſcovered in the Highlands of Scotland; iron ſtone is found in many places; and lead mines have long been wrought with ſucceſs.

Some iſlands, as Eſdale, and others in its neighbourhood, are compoſed entirely of ſlate; beſides numerous quarries on the main land, which, from the want of commerce and towns, cannot be brought into uſe.

The iſland of Liſmore, eight miles in length, is one continued rock of limeſtone. Roſs-ſhire and Sunderland, abound in mountains of marble reſembling the Parian; but this treaſure is of no benefit to the proprietors, on account of the diſtance from water carriage, and the almoſt uninhabited ſtate of thoſe remote regions.

Freeſtone, granite, marle, ſilver ſand, ſhells, kelp, potters clay, fullers earth, and fern, are common throughout the Highlands.

Rivers and inland lakes are extremely numerous in the Highlands; they contain ſalmon, trout, char, eels, poans, and other delicate fiſhes; and, as it is well

Ruſſia, by means of large rivers, and is become both ſcarcer and dearer of late years, as appears from the report of ſundry merchants and builders, to the Houſe of Commons, from which ſome extracts are given in the Appendix. The coaſts of America begin alſo to feel a ſcarcity of timber; what we now receive from that country is brought down the rivers in floats to the ports, from whence there is a voyage of 3000 miles. All theſe circumſtances are in favour of Britiſh timber.

known

known that fiſh may be tranſported from one country to another with ſucceſs, theſe lakes might be rendered of ſtill greater utility. The Chineſe pedlars carry on ſuch buſineſs throughout the various provinces of that extenſive empire.

In Switzerland, a country reſembling Scotland in the magnitude of its mountains, and the number of its freſh-water lakes, there are one or more towns on each; and, ſays biſhop Burnet, it is generally computed, that an eighth part of the inhabitants live by the produce of their fiſhing. Mr. Ray obſerves, that in the lake of Zugh, which is not very conſiderable, there are at leaſt fifty different ſpecies of eatable fiſh, all in great plenty, and ſome of the moſt delicate ſorts, ſuch as trout, grayling, char, perch, and others, moſt of which had been brought thither from diſtant parts.

The poſſibility of tranſporting fiſh being thus eſtabliſhed, the Scottiſh lakes might be ſtocked with the ſtreamling, an excellent fiſh in the Swediſh lake Maeler; the rheinlacker, or Rhine ſalmon, which is two ells in length, and forty pounds weight, from the lake of Conſtance in Switzerland; alſo the large trout, weighing thirty pounds, which is found in ſome of the northern parts of Scotland, as well as the lake of Geneva. But all the above enumerated articles, though they might be rendered extremely favourable to commercial purpoſes, are loſt in the compariſon with the riches of the ſeas, which environ the Highlands of Scotland.

Through the openings, between the baſes of the mountains, flows the great Weſtern Ocean, in various directions, forming one continued ſucceſſion of bays and lakes, from five to fifty miles within land; which, with the ſounds and channels, formed by the Hebride iſlands, and the banks interſperſed upon theſe ſhores, contain the greateſt repoſitory of fiſh hitherto diſcovered in any part of the known world, and of excellent qualities. The moſt uſeful are turbot,

ling,

ling, haak, tuſk, ſturgeon, HERRINGS, whitings, haddocks, ſkait, ſoals, phinocs, mackarel, ſalmon, trout, char, pike, eels, and poans; various ſpecies of ſhell fiſh, as lobſters, oyſters, crabs; alſo all kinds of cetacious fiſh, from whales of every denomination down to the grampus; ſeals, ſea-dogs, and other amphibious animals, which frequent the caverns, in great abundance.

Of all theſe fiſhes, the herring is the moſt important, not only on account of the vaſt ſhoals which annually preſent themſelves in the Deucaledonian ocean, but alſo their ſuperior quality, in thoſe parts, as appears from the various deſcriptions given of them by Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir William Monſon, and other writers of the laſt and preſent century. Of theſe accounts, that given by the judicious and worthy Thomas Pennant, Eſq; ſeems to be the moſt ſuitable to the preſent ſubject. "Loch Broom," ſays he, "has been celebrated for theſe three or four centuries as the reſort of herrings. Thoſe that turn into this bay are part of the brigade that detaches itſelf from the weſtern column of that great army that annually deſert the vaſt depths of the Arctic Circle, and come, heaven directed, to the ſeats of population, offered as a cheap food to millions, whom waſteful luxury, or iron-hearted avarice, hath deprived, by enhancing the price of the wonted ſupports of the poor.

"The migration of theſe fiſh from their northern retreat is regular: their viſits to the weſtern iſles and coaſts, certain: but their attachment to one particular loch, extremely precarious. All have their turns; that which ſwarmed with fiſh one year, is totally deſerted the following; yet the next loch to it be crowded with the ſhoals. Theſe changes of place give often full employ to the buſſes, who are continually ſhifting their harbours in queſt of news reſpecting theſe important wanderers.

"They

" They commonly appear here in July; the latter end of Auguſt they go into deep water, and continue there for ſome time, without any apparent cauſe. In November they return to the ſhallows, when a new fiſhery commences, which continues till January. At that time the herrings become full of roe, and are uſeleſs as articles of commerce. Some doubt, whether theſe herrings that appear in November are not part of a new migration; for they are as fat, and make the ſame appearance, as thoſe that compoſe the firſt.

" The ſigns of the arrival of the herrings are flocks of gulls, who catch up the fiſh while they ſkim on the ſurface; and of gannets (Solan geeſe), who plunge and bring them up from conſiderable depths. Both theſe birds are cloſely attended to by the fiſhers.

" Cod-fiſh, haddocks, and dog-fiſh, follow the herrings in vaſt multitudes: theſe voracious fiſh keep on the outſide of the columns, and may be a concurrent reaſon of driving the ſhoals into bays and creeks. In ſummer they come into bays generally with the warmeſt weather, and with eaſy gales. During winter the hard gales from N. W. are ſuppoſed to aſſiſt in forcing them into ſhelter. Eaſt winds are very unfavourable to the fiſhery.

" The enemies that aſſail theſe fiſh in the winter ſeaſon are varied, not diminiſhed: of the birds, the gannets diſappear; the gulls ſtill continue their perſecutions; whales, pollacks, and porpeſſes are added to their number of foes. Theſe follow in droves; the whales deliberately opening their vaſt mouths, taking them by hundreds. Theſe monſters keep on the outſide; for the body of the phalanx of herrings is ſo thick as to be impenetrable by theſe unwieldy animals."

Of Inland Navigation.

HITHERTO the inhabitants of theſe neglected ſhores, unable to avail themſelves of the bounty which their ſeas afford, have lived in penury, amidſt the ſources of affluence; I ſhall therefore ſpecify ſuch meaſures as ſeem moſt conducive to the purpoſes of general utility, in the full eſtabliſhment of a populous, thriving colony.

The firſt object which preſents itſelf is the opening ſhorter communications between the Atlantic and the Britiſh Sea; the advantages of which are ſo obvious, that they may be conſidered as the groundwork of all ſucceeding improvements, not only in the Highlands, but over Scotland in general.

That nation admits of three artificial navigations:

1. The Southern navigation, between the Forth and the Clyde.

2. The Weſtern navigation, between the Clyde or Loch Fyne, and the Atlantic.

3. The Northern navigation, between Fort William and Inverneſs.

Navigation between the Forth and the Clyde.

SCOTLAND is almoſt divided into two parts, by the rivers Forth and Clyde. The Forth falls into the Britiſh Sea below Edinburgh, and has an eaſy communication with the whole eaſtern coaſt of Great Britain; with France, Oſtend, Holland, Hamburgh, Pruſſia, Dantzic, Ruſſia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Greenland. The Clyde falls into the Atlantic Ocean below Glaſgow, and communicates with the weſtern coaſt of Great Britain; with Ireland, the ſouth of France, Portugal, Spain, the Mediterranean, America, and the Weſt Indies. Theſe two rivers, thus falling, in oppoſite directions, into the two ſeas which environ our iſland, and the neck of land between

tween them, amounting ſcarcely to twenty-four miles, gave riſe to the idea of a junction, ſo as to open a communication acroſs the kingdom, and thereby cut off the long, dangerous navigation by the Land's End, and the Pentland Firth.

An object of ſuch general utility did not eſcape the notice of Charles II. who, amidſt all his gallantries, was the great promoter of every deſign which had the ſucceſs of trade and navigation, in view. That monarch propoſed to open a paſſage for tranſports, and ſmall ſhips of war, at the expence of 500,000 *l.* a ſum far beyond the abilities of his reign; and the deſign was conſequently laid aſide. The affairs of the continent engaged the attention of ſucceeding princes, till the beginning of the preſent reign; when the earl of Chatham, endued with all the penetration and magnanimity of an able ſtateſman, propoſed to carry the deſign immediately into execution, at the public expence, on a ſmaller ſcale than the original deſign, but ſtill ſufficient to admit veſſels of burden. Unfortunately, the reſignation of that great man loſt, to theſe kingdoms, the only opportunity which Nature preſented for giving ſecurity and expedition, to the Britiſh navigation, in the northern ſeas.

This buſineſs being thus abandoned a ſecond time, the late duke of Queensberry, Sir Laurence Dundas, and ſundry other public ſpirited gentlemen, reſolved to open the navigation at their joint expence, upon a ſcale ſtill more contracted, but ſufficient to admit veſſels of 80 or 100 tuns. The work was begun in 1768; and, in 1775, it was completed to the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, and within ſix miles of the intended junction with the Clyde.

The company's ſubſcription was propoſed to be 150,000 *l.* but it never amounted to 140,000 *l.* and many of the ſubſcribers did not make good their payment. 150,000 *l.* have however been expended; the company is conſequently in debt; and the remaining

ſix miles, the moſt expenſive of the whole, will require 50 or 60,000 *l.* a ſum which the company hath not thought it expedient to raiſe.

As the commerce between theſe kingdoms hath lately encreaſed, and is encreaſing, the completing this canal is, conſequently, an object of equal concern and utility to the trading part of the whole iſland, and in a leſſer degree to Ireland. The company might therefore be reimburſed, and diſſolved; and a work, which is not local, but a general buſineſs, be executed, as originally intended, at the public expence; but ſhould this be deemed inexpedient, the ſum ſtill deficient, or any part of it, might, with no great inconvenience, be immediately voted.

The dimenſions of this canal, though greatly contracted from the original deſign, are much ſuperior to any work of the ſame nature in South Britain. The Engliſh canals are generally from 3 to 5 feet deep; 20 to 40 feet wide; and the lock gates from 10 to 12 feet; but they fully anſwer the purpoſes of inland carriage, from one town to another, for which alone they were deſigned. That, between the Forth and the Clyde, was happily conſtructed upon a more enlarged plan, becauſe the diſtance was ſhort, and the ſurface almoſt on a level. Its depth is ſeven feet, and its breadth, at the ſurface, fifty-ſix feet. The locks are ſeventy-five feet long, and their gates twenty feet wide. The diſtance between the entrance into the Clyde and Forth, is, by the Pentland Firth, 600 miles; by the canal ſcarcely 100; all veſſels therefore, not exceeding 80 or 100 tons burden, will, by this paſſage, ſave five hundred miles of a navigation, at all times dangerous, and in winter almoſt impracticable. The voyage by the Land's End is ſtill more extenſive, and in time of war doubly hazardous.

Reſpecting the Weſt Highlands, for whoſe benefit this ſubject was chiefly introduced, the utility of a ſhort paſſage between that country and the Eaſt ſea need ſcarcely be mentioned. Hitherto the navigation

of

of the Highlands, and the petty traffic of the inhabitants, have not extended beyond the limits of Glaſgow; but whenever theſe ſix miles ſhall be completed, a new world will open to their view; the ſcene of action will be extended; veſſels of a larger and better conſtruction will be gradually introduced; the natives will not only take and cure all the various fiſhes which frequent their coaſts, but alſo embark upon diſtant voyages, as occaſions may require, for a market. Thoſe men who have hitherto been excluded from foreign intercourſe with mankind, who have been left to prowl amidſt their boiſterous ſhores at home, will now begin to trade with the various ports of Scotland; with London, Holland, and the Baltic, where the ſuperior goodneſs of their herrings will always command a ſpeedy ſale.

2. *Navigation between the Atlantic and Loch Fyne.*

TO render the ſouthern navigation ſtill more complete, it will be neceſſary to ſhorten the paſſage from the Atlantic to the Clyde; or, in other words, from the Hebrides and Weſt Highlands to Glaſgow, Greenock, and other trading towns on that celebrated river. The navigation of the Highlands being greatly lengthened by head lands and other obſtacles, which muſt be carefully avoided, we cannot eſtimate the voyage from Cape Wrath to Glaſgow, at leſs than four hundred miles, or eight hundred miles outward and homeward. This is a bold undertaking for little open boats, badly conſtructed, and ſtill worſe provided; and if, to the great diſtance, we conſider the almoſt inceſſant gales, the vaſt number of iſlands, lee-ſhores, rocks, ſands, and currents, attending theſe voyages, we may pronounce them not only long and tedious, but extremely hazardous to the poor natives, whoſe neceſſities compel them to ſuch deſperate attempts. Nor are theſe the only difficulties which

they have to encounter in their paſſage to Glaſgow. The wind which favoured their voyage to the Mull of Cantire, becomes, conſequently, adverſe after having doubled that cape; they muſt then furl the ſail, and ply at the oars, through a heavy ſea, up the Firth of Clyde, ſometimes for ſeveral days, before they can reach the intended port. Having diſpoſed of their ſmall aſſortment of bark, ſkins, wool, and dried fiſh; they have, in their return, to combat the ſame round of difficulties, toil, and danger; the whole trip employing four men, from three to five weeks. This traffic, however inſignificant, is ſuſpended during the winter ſeaſon; the navigation becomes then impracticable for open boats, and the people, as hath been already obſerved, are ſhut out from all intercourſe with the ſeats of induſtry, population and affluence. Such is the commerce and navigation of a people inhabiting the richeſt, and moſt improveable ſhores in the Britiſh dominions.

The herring fiſhery, though an object of great importance, not only to that country, but to the Weſt-Indies, and other dependencies abroad, labours under the ſame difficulties in theſe weſtern ſeas. The buſſes fitted out from the ports of the Clyde muſt, in their outward and homeward voyages, ſteer round the Mull of Cantire; and, as all the hopes of the adventurers depend on a ſpeedy fiſhery, and a quick ſale, nothing can prove more diſcouraging to that national ſtaple, than the hazard, the delay, the expence, and the uncertainty of this circumnavigation.

In a dark, tempeſtuous night of January 1782, two buſſes, loaded with herrings, were wrecked, in their homeward paſſage from Loch Broom, on coming round the peninſula of Cantire. Many lives were loſt; and as the crew of every veſſel have generally a concern in the venture, ſeveral families were at once deprived of huſbands, fathers, and property. It would be endleſs to enumerate the many cataſtrophes which befall theſe induſtrious people, in navi-

gating

gating thoſe narrow ſeas, during the winter hurricanes. The melancholy tales of widows and fatherleſs children paſs unregarded, as matters of trivial moment; and mankind, always buſied in ſelfiſh purſuits, have never deigned to carry the tidings to a quarter which feels for diſtreſs, and is ever diſpoſed to relieve it.

Another inconvenience attending this navigation remains to be mentioned. It hath already been obſerved, that though the arrival of the herrings be certain, yet the particular lake or bay of their rendezvous remains doubtful, until diſcovered by the fowls which attend the ſhoals. Sometimes the herrings are diſcovered in Loch Fyne, and other lochs on this ſide of Cantire; at other times, in Loch Broom, or amidſt the Hebride iſlands, on the other ſide. In either caſe, the people of the one ſide muſt ſail round that peninſula, before they can avail themſelves of the fiſhery on the oppoſite ſide, and every boat, however ſmall, muſt make a circuit, of at leaſt one hundred miles, before ſhe arrives at ſhores which lie parallel to the place from whence ſhe ſet out. Therefore, when all theſe circumſtances are combined and duly conſidered, the expediency of a ſhorter navigation between the Atlantic and the Clyde, muſt appear obvious to every obſerver. It is a matter not only of national utility, but of moral obligation. It touches the feelings of humanity, and calls loudly for immediate redreſs.

A ſtranger from China, France, or Holland, would imagine that a work of ſuch importance to a commercial nation, preſented difficulties in the execution, which could not be removed at a leſs expence than ſeveral millions ſterling; but, how great would his ſurprize be, when informed, that nature had almoſt completed the buſineſs, leaving only an iſthmus of five miles between the two ſeas; that the ſurface was perfectly level, and that the expence of joining theſe waters would amount to no more than 17,000 *l.*

The place alluded to, lies between Loch Fyne and Loch Crinan, where a canal would open at once to the Atlantic ocean, the Hebrides, the whole region of the Weſt Highlands, and the great Loch Linnhe; whence, as ſhall be mentioned hereafter, a communication may be opened to Inverneſs, and the Britiſh ſea, in that northern diviſion of the kingdom. It would alſo ſhorten the paſſage from Clyde to the Orkney and Shetland Iſlands; and, for large veſſels, to thoſe extenſive ſhores of the Baltic, whoſe produce is ſo indiſpenſably neceſſary to the wants of every commercial ſtate.

Thus the cutting eleven miles, including the unfiniſhed part of the Glaſgow canal, would complete all the inland navigation that the ſouth of Scotland requires, or admits. It would anſwer every valuable purpoſe, in that diviſion of the kingdom, but more particularly to the Highlanders, who by finding themſelves brought nearer, by one hundred miles, to Glaſgow, and its communications with other parts of the iſland, would gradually forget the grievances which had nearly deſolated their country. A voyage, which frequently takes up three weeks, would, by this eaſy paſſage, be performed in four or five days, with fewer hands, and in all ſeaſons of the year. By cutting off the peninſula of Cantire, the voyage would be entirely inland, and happily ſcreened, by the mountains, from the dreadful tempeſts of the Atlantic *.

3. *Navigation between Fort William and Inverneſs.*

A THIRD, or northern navigation, of very conſiderable utility, claims the attention of the public. Geographers have uſually deſcribed Scotland under

* As the weſt ſide of this peninſula is the great receptacle of herring and white fiſh, it may be ſuppoſed that a deep and wide canal through this narrow tract, would open a channel for thoſe fiſhes into Loch Fyne and the Clyde.

two natural diviſions, the countries lying ſouth of the Forth, and thoſe on the north ſide of that river. Thoſe people, however, who have perſonally examined that kingdom, muſt have perceived that Nature ſeems to point out three diviſions, the ſouth, the middle, and the north.

Between the iſland of Mull and the Murray Firth, there is a level or chaſm, compoſed of land and water, which ſeparates the mountains of the middle diviſion from thoſe of the north, ſo completely, that with very ſmall aſſiſtance from art, ſhips might paſs between them, from ſea to ſea.

On the weſt ſide of this extenſive valley is the Linnhe Loch, penetrating above thirty-four miles eaſtward, and ſo capacious, that ſhips of the line have been moored as high as Inverlochy, now known by the name of Fort William. This fine ſalt-water lake is ſurrounded with leſſer ones, communicating, or which might eaſily be made to communicate, with it. The fiſh peculiar to the Linnhe Loch are herrings, white fiſh, ſalmon, trout, and phinocs, ſuppoſed to be the young of what the fiſhermen call the great trout, weighing thirty pounds. The timber is birch and pine. Inverlochy was, in ancient times, a reſidence of the Scottiſh kings, and alſo a place of ſome trade in fiſh, ſkins, &c. From Inverlochy, eaſtward, is the river Lochy, iſſuing, at the diſtance of ſeven miles, from Loch Lochy, a beautiful ſheet of water, fourteen miles in length, above one in breadth, and thirty fathom in depth; abounding in ſalmon, trout, and other fiſh peculiar to freſh-water lakes; the banks ſhaded with natural woods. Eaſtward, at the diſtance of two miles of a level, ſandy ground, but without any river, is Loch Oich, a narrow, deep lake, four miles in length; the ſhores beautifully fringed with woods. The waters of Loch Lochy are ſometimes navigable for ſmall boats, and diſcharge themſelves into the weſt ſea at Inverlochy; thoſe of Loch Oich, navigable alſo for ſmall boats, take their direction to-

wards the eaſtern ſhore; falling, at the diſtance of four miles, into the famous Lochneſs, a lake twenty-two miles in length, near two in breadth, and in depth from 5 to 90 fathoms. This lake hath ſome qualities peculiar to itſelf; it never freezes; and, in winter, it is covered with a ſteam or ſmoke, proportioned to the ſeverity of the weather. It even ſoftens the rigours of the air, and aſſiſts vegetation, particularly trees, which, on the ſouth ſide, form one continued wood of birch, aſh, and oak. Its waters are extremely favourable to the human conſtitution, and longevity. The fiſh are ſalmon, trout, pike, and eels. The ſurrounding woods and mountains, beſides ſmall cattle, ſheep, and goats, are alſo frequented by wild animals, and fowl peculiar to the Highlands, as ſtags, roes, hares, ptarmigans, grous, and black game; alſo the ſcarce bird called the capercally, or cock of the wood. Combining all theſe circumſtances, the neighbourhood of Lochneſs appears to have been deſigned by Nature for population and commerce, by land and water. Conſiderations of ſtill greater moment remain to be mentioned.

From the eaſtern extremity of this lake iſſues the river Neſs, gliding in a copious ſtream, through a level country of ſix miles, till it falls into Loch Beaulie, a capacious ſalt water lake, communicating with the Britiſh ſea at Arderſier, a narrow ſtrait, guarded by Fort George. From this lake the tide flows about a mile up the river Neſs, which, having a ſandy bottom, can eaſily be rendered navigable. This river may be termed the great thoroughfare for ſalmon between the ſea and Lochneſs; they are taken in vaſt abundance by the London fiſhmongers, to whom the fiſhery is farmed, to the great prejudice of the natives. The waters of the Beaulie are ſtill more valuable. To the fiſh peculiar to inland lakes, are added the various riches of the ocean, particularly a ſmall but well-flavoured ſpecies of herrings, which the inhabitants capture at pleaſure, with very little trouble or expence.

The

The whole line of communication from the ſound of Mull to Inverneſs, compriſes an extent of ninety-three miles, and is thus compoſed of land and water, viz.

Linnhe Loch,	34	River Lochy,	7
Loch Lochy,	14	—— Oich,	4
—— Oich,	4	—— Neſs,	6
—— Neſs,	22		17
Land, from Loch Lochy to Loch Oich; the level 14 feet above the flood mark at Inverneſs.			2
Lakes,	74		
Rivers,	17		
Land,	2		
	93		

Thus, by cutting two miles of land, and deepening ſeventeen miles of almoſt navigable rivers, a direct communication may be opened between the two ſeas; ſo favourable is Nature, even amidſt the wilds of the north Highlands, to provincial improvement, and national utility. In no part of the Highlands hath the ſpirit of emigration been more ſeverely felt by the landholders; and, unleſs ſome inducement ſhall be held out to theſe diſcontented natives, that great diviſion of the kingdom will ſoon be deſolated.

Nor is it the Highlands only that require the aid of a communication between the two ſeas. The climate, along the banks of the Murray Firth, is ſoft, and the ſoil excellent, as appears from the exports of grain and meal to Glaſgow, and other trading towns of the ſouth. This country hath alſo many conſiderable woods, much iron ore, and ſome lead. The ſea is bountiful in white fiſh, herrings, and ſalmon; but theſe ſhores, though thus abounding in the neceſſaries of life, labour under a natural misfortune which no human efforts can remove. A ridge of hills, called the Grampian Mountains, forms an almoſt impaſſable chain

chain from Loch Lomond to near Aberdeen. This croſſing the kingdom, from ſea to ſea, cuts off the northern counties from all inland communication with the ſouth, during the winter; nor do the narrow, ſteep paſſes admit the carriage of goods, even in ſummer.

All mercantile intercourſe muſt therefore be carried on by water carriage only; and even this mode of conveyance is limited to the eaſt ſide of the iſland, as Edinburgh, London, and of late to Glaſgow, by means of the canal from the river Forth to, nearly, that city. The only communication, which the inhabitants of theſe northern ſhores can have with the weſt ſide of the iſland, muſt be by the dangerous navigation of the Pentland Firth; a paſſage which they ſeldom attempt. The propoſed canal would prove an effectual remedy againſt this inconvenience, by opening a ſhort and ſafe paſſage to the weſt Highlands, the Hebrides, the Clyde, Liverpool, Briſtol, and the whole kingdom of Ireland. Inverneſs, which is well ſituated for commerce, would become the emporium of the north, a centrical port between the two ſeas, giving employment to the induſtrious, and diffuſing univerſal comfort amongſt a people whoſe patience is completely exhauſted.

In cloſing this ſubject it may be proper to remark, that the three canals, here recommended, would open a circumnavigation, within the heart of the kingdom, to the unſpeakable benefit of commerce, and the fiſheries. A veſſel ſetting out from Inverneſs to Edinburgh, and the eaſt ſide of the iſland, might return by Glaſgow, the Hebrides, and other parts, on the weſt ſide, and ſo *vice verſa*, as might ſeem moſt beneficial to the parties concerned.

This inland navigation, amounting to about 500 miles, would include almoſt the whole trading part of the kingdom; a circumſtance which requires the moſt ſerious attention; and the more ſo, when we conſider with what facility it might be accompliſhed, and the ſmallneſs of the expence, compared to the ſolid and

permanent

permanent advantages to the Highlanders in particular, and to the trade of theſe kingdoms in general, as will further appear by the following eſtimates:

By completing ſix miles of the canal between the Forth and Clyde, by which veſſels under 100 tuns would ſave near 500 miles, and elude all privateers,	60,000
By cutting two miles of land, and deepening ſeventeen miles of rivers, between Fort William and Inverneſs, which would ſave 200 miles,	50,000
By cutting five miles between Loch Crinan and Loch Fyne, which would ſave 100 miles.	17,000
Expence £.	127,000

Land to be cut, 13
Rivers deepened, 17
30
} Navigation ſaved, 800 miles.

The accumulated loſs ſuſtained by the tedious and hazardous paſſage round the Pentland Firth, in delays, damages at ſea, ſhipwrecks, captures, extra freight, and inſurance, amounts in one year only, to more than would complete the above works of general utility; and, if to this we add the great object of relieving the diſtreſſes of 400,000 people, of bringing them into the line of action, and of opening new ſources of wealth and commerce within our own iſland, it is matter of aſtoniſhment that theſe works have not been completed long ago.

A Review of the Herring Fiſheries.

THE whole coaſt of Scotland may be conſidered as one continued fiſhery; diſtinguiſhed however by various names:

1. The

1. The weſtern, or Loch Broom fiſhery.
2. The northern, or the Orkney and Shetland fiſhery.
3. That on the eaſt ſide of the kingdom.

The Weſtern, or Loch Broom Fiſhery.

The arguments already advanced reſpecting the diſtreſſes of the Highlands, from the want of towns, markets and granaries, will acquire conſiderable force from the following review of the herring fiſhery, the diſcouragements under which it labours, and the piteous ſituation of thoſe who are under the neceſſity of following it, in the preſent neglected ſtate of theſe townleſs ſhores.

The weſt of Scotland preſents a coaſt, taken in a direct line, from the Mull of Cantire to Cape Wrath, of 250 miles; and, if to that extent, we add the head lands, the ſhores along the bays, and lakes, by which it is every where indented, and frequently to the depth of twenty or thirty miles within land, we may ſafely eſtimate the whole at more than 2000 miles. But it is to be obſerved that the ſhores of this diſtrict are not confined to the mainland only. The Hebride iſles, which are 300 in number, and ſome of them above 40 miles in length, cover the whole weſtern continent, from one end to the other; and, conſequently, preſent a double coaſt; beſides the numerous ſeas formed by the irregular diſtances and directions in which the iſlands lie. If, therefore, we were to particularize the circumnavigation of each reſpective iſland, with its bays and lakes, and ſum up, in one view, the whole extent of thoſe ſeas, deſtined by nature for valuable fiſheries, it would be found to exceed the whole coaſt of the European continent, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean.

Hitherto this boundleſs ſource of national wealth hath been conducted under ſuch diſtreſſing circumſtances as are ſhocking to humanity. The ſummer fiſhery

fiſhery is tolerable, but nothing can equal the horrors of the winter's ſcene. The buſſes ſet out in October, and have to cruize throughout this vaſt Archipelago, amidſt ſtorms, or heavy gales, till the ſhoals have been diſcovered, frequently at the diſtance of more than 200 miles from the places whence the veſſels took their departure; and, however incredible it may appear, the buſſes are accompanied, in all theſe dangers and difficulties, by the poor natives in their little open boats, though barely able to keep upon the ſurface of the waves.

The fiſhery is performed in the night time, by the boats belonging to the reſpective veſſels, and the natives: the ſucceſs is generally proportioned to the roughneſs of the ſea. The herrings are commonly found amongſt the bays, or lakes, whoſe barren and thinly inhabited ſhores afford no comfort, either to the weary, or the ſick. The ſituation of thoſe who are employed on ſhore, in gutting the herrings, for the ſmall pittance of three halfpence per barrel, is, if poſſible, ſtill more calamitous. This branch is performed by women and children, who travel thither, in all inclemencies of weather, carrying on their backs the infants, the meal, the kettle, and other little matters, which the townleſs coaſt does not afford.

They, moſt generally, enter upon the cold buſineſs without any ſhelter for themſelves, or their infants; without even a change in diet, from their arrival, till their departure. Here are ſeldom any lodgings for the ſick, or the dying. The heath, the caverns, or the woody ſhores, are their bed; the ſnow, or the hoary froſt, their covering.

Theſe circumſtances are not only diſtreſſing to the people, but highly prejudicial to the fiſheries, which are now on the decline, and will, in all probability, dwindle to a meer name, unleſs ſpeedy, effectual meaſures ſhall be taken to remove impediments, and to meliorate diſtreſſes which reflect diſhonour upon the boaſted humanity of Britain.

The

The expence in purchaſing and fitting out the buſſes, agreeable to the act of parliament, is very conſiderable. Every veſſel of eighty tuns ought to have eighteen men, three boats, 20,000 yards of netting, 144 barrels of ſalt, beſides empty caſks, and ſtores for a three months voyage. The captain and mariners generally engroſs the principal ſhares of the venture, on which they ſtretch their credit to the utmoſt limits. Should the enterprize fail, through want of ſucceſs, ſhipwreck, a bad market, or any other cauſe, the loſs is ſeverely felt, not only by thoſe who were immediately concerned in the undertaking, but alſo by their friends and neighbours, who aſſiſted in fitting them out, in the hopes of a ſucceſsful fiſhery, to the mutual advantage of all parties.

Such being the expence and precarious ſtate of the herring fiſhery, government, to encourage this nurſery for ſeamen, granted a bounty, of fifty ſhillings per tun, to all adventurers, from both kingdoms. While the bounty was regularly paid, the fiſhery was carried on with ſpirit, and promiſed the moſt ſolid benefits to the public, as well as individuals. But theſe agreeable proſpects were of ſhort duration. The bounty fell into arrears, and was withheld from year to year, till at length the payment of it, even at any diſtant time, became matter of doubt. Meanwhile, that uſeful body of men, who had embarked in theſe expenſive undertakings upon the faith of parliament, unable any longer to pacify their creditors, found themſelves reduced to the ſad alternative of a jail, or, of flying to a country, which is deſtined to become the refuge, and aſylum, of the unfortunate, the injured, and the oppreſſed, from all parts of theſe kingdoms, and of Europe.

The bounty thus injudiciouſly withheld, was afterwards reduced to thirty ſhillings per tun, but on the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of its being regularly paid, when due. It was ſo for a time, when the fiſhery gradually revived, and bade fair to arrive at a greater height

height than in any former period. Theſe favourable appearances were again checked through the non-payment of the bounty; the credulous adventurers were glad to ſell out at thirty or forty per cent. loſs; and a fiſhery which, ſome years ago, employed near 300 buſſes, beſides ſome thouſand Highlanders in their ſmall boats, did not in 1782 employ fifty veſſels, throughout the whole weſtern coaſt of Scotland, and the Hebrides.

In addition to theſe diſcouraging circumſtances, the ſalt uſed in curing the herrings for home conſumption is liable to a duty, and even the hoops, brought from Holland, are not exempted; ſo that, upon the whole, government gives with one hand, and takes with the other. But this is not all; its gifts, from the injudicious delays in payment, inſtead of promoting the fiſheries, not only defeat that important object, but contribute to deprive the country of its valuable ſubjects, whom it firſt ruins, and afterwards drives to foreign parts.

Still more injudicious is the diſtinction made between Britiſh herrings ſold to Ireland for re-exportation, and thoſe for the home conſumption of that kingdom. The latter is ſubject to a duty, which, though ſmall, amounts to an embargo, becauſe the Iriſh having a fiſhery of their own, free (as the country which they inhabit) from all impoſitions, and encouraged by their parliament, will never purchaſe herrings at a Britiſh market, except in years when theſe fiſh do not viſit their coaſts. Of the herrings exported from Ireland, it may be proper to remark that their barrel contains twenty-eight gallons only, whereas the Britiſh muſt hold thirty-two, under a penalty.

Reſpecting the natives who aſſiſt in completing the cargoes of the buſſes, it is to be obſerved that each boat contains four men, whoſe joint ſtock is far too ſcanty for the expence of ſails, ropes, nets, &c. When the

the fiſhery happens to be ſucceſsful, they are enabled to carry a ſmall pittance home to their reſpective families, beſides diſcharging the debts contracted in fitting out. But when the fiſhery proves unſucceſsful, or barely ſufficient to keep them in neceſſaries, it is eaſier to conceive than relate, the general diſtreſs of whole diſtricts. A boat arrives with the melancholy tidings of the general failure; of the violence of the ſtorms, and the lives which have been loſt. Report, which never ſleeps, flies over the mountains, moraſſes, lakes, and torrents, till it hath filled every breaſt with agony for paſt misfortunes, and gloomy apprehenſions of new diſaſters.

The fiſhermen, after having combated the fury of contending elements; after having, in their wanderings from ſea to ſea, ſurmounted all the fatigues of a winter's navigation, direct their courſe homewards: they haul their ſhattered boats on ſhore; lodge the nets and tackling; and returning, emaciated and wore out, to their families, they confirm, by dejected looks and empty pockets, the unwelcome news; while the conſideration of debts recently contracted, and which they are utterly unable to pay, gives additional poignancy to the anguiſh of their minds.

Were there any towns, or any encouragement for labour, on theſe ſhores, an occaſional failure in the fiſheries, might be repaired by induſtry, and the family kept together; but in the preſent ſtate of that country, the man who is unſucceſsful, for one ſeaſon only, is undone.

If this repreſentation be juſt; if the endleſs diſtreſſes of theſe our countrymen and fellow ſubjects, can impreſs the minds of a great, a juſt, and a generous nation, this buſineſs will be taken into conſideration, and a ſmall gratuity or bounty to every boat, immediately granted. Theſe boats may be regiſtered, and put under ſuch regulations as the legiſlature ſhall judge moſt expedient for the general benefit of the ſtate. By ſuch meaſures this uſeful claſs of men will be

be induced to remain in their native country; the number of ſeamen will be increaſed, and exactly aſcertained; a grateful, high-ſpirited people, proud of the attention thus paid them, will, in all times of national diſtreſs or danger, be eager to ruſh upon the mouths of cannon, in defence of our empire, conſtitution, liberties and commerce.

The Orkney and Shetland Fiſheries.

BUT all the various diſcouragements, above enumerated, are trivial, when compared to the national loſs, ſuſtained by our permitting the Dutch, French, Hamburghers, and other foreigners to engroſs the greateſt part of the Orkney and Shetland fiſheries.

It is recorded, in the Batavian annals, that the Scots ſold their herrings to the inhabitants of the Netherlands, as early as the ninth century. This traffic laid the foundation of a commercial alliance between both countries, which ſubſiſted, to their mutual advantage, during many ages, but is at preſent of very little conſequence. Hiſtory gives us no light reſpecting the origin of the Dutch fiſheries, which have, in latter times, been permitted on the coaſts of Scotland, ſo very prejudicial to the commercial intereſts of that country. Suffice it therefore to obſerve, that in the eſtimates handed down by Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir William Monſon, and other navigators of the laſt century, this fiſhery had then arrived at a height which almoſt exceeds credibility. Sir Walter Raleigh relates, "That, in 1603, the Dutch ſold to different nations as many herrings as amounted to 1,759,000 pounds ſterling. That, in 1615, they at once ſent out 2000 buſſes, and employed in them 37,000 fiſhermen. That, in 1618, they ſent out 3000 buſſes, with 50,000 men, to take the herrings, and 9000 more veſſels to tranſport and ſell the fiſh; which, by ſea and land, employed 150,000 men, be-

ſides thoſe firſt mentioned. All this wealth, ſays he, was gotten on our coaſts; while our attention was taken up in a diſtant whale fiſhery."

Sir William Monſon, after taking a review of the vaſt commerce carried on by the Dutch, which he aſcribes chiefly to their fiſheries, proceeds thus; "There needs no repetition of any former relation; for truth has ſpoke it, which is ſo glorious of herſelf, that it needs no ſhade to give it better gloſs: in what follows I will demonſtrate by the particular proceedings of the Hollanders, in their pinks and buſſes, what certain gain they yearly raiſe out of them; and when experience, the mother of knowledge, ſhall make it apparent to you, I hope you will remember what you are, and how eaſy you may make yourſelves and country by it.

"I confeſs this fiſhing is a buſineſs I have taken into conſideration. My lord of Northampton, if he were now living, was able to witneſs how much it was ſollicited and deſired by me, and no leſs wiſhed and deſired by his lordſhip. But by the death of my lord, it reſted unthought on by me, till the late duke of Richmond revived it, and importuned me once more to it. His death in the like manner made it die, till his majeſty (Charles I.) of late, out of his princely care for the good of his loving ſubjects, for the renown of his kingdoms, and deſire of the unity and equal benefit of his two realms of England and Scotland, took more than an ordinary care how to effect it, well beſeeming ſo bleſſed and benign a prince: and now I will deſcend to the particulars of the Hollanders buſſes, as well in their taking herrings, as cod, and ling, and the ſeaſons of the year for both.

"From the Texel in Holland to Braſound in Shetland, an iſland belonging to his majeſty's dominions in Scotland, is two hundred thirty and odd leagues, whither there reſort the 22d or 23d of June well nigh 2000 fiſhing veſſels. The 24th they put to ſea, being prohibited

prohibited till that day, and a penalty upon the breaker thereof, holding the herrings till then unſeaſonable to ſalt for their fatneſs.

" Every one of theſe veſſels that day directs its courſe to find out the ſhoal of herrings, like a hound that purſues the head of a deer in hunting: when they have laden their buſſes, which is ſooner or later, as they find the ſhoal of herrings, they preſently return home for Holland, and leave their herrings aſhore to be there repacked, and from thence immediately to be ſent into the Sound [the Baltic], where they receive them for a great dainty.

" The buſſes having thus disburthened themſelves in Holland, once more furniſhed with victuals, caſks and ſalt, they repair to ſea to look out the ſhoal they had formerly left; and then finding them, and filling them once again, they do as they did before, return to Holland.

" Nor thus ceaſing, the third time they repair to the ſhoal, as aforeſaid; and in their three fiſhings, computing with the leaſt, they take to the number of 100 laſts of herrings, which being valued at ten pounds the laſt, which is not ſeventeen ſhillings a barrel, will amount to 1000 pounds ſterling each ſhip.

" Many times this fiſhing fleet is attended with certain veſſels called yawgers, which carry ſalt, caſk, and victuals, to truck with the buſſes for their herrings, and carry them directly into the Sound, without returning into Holland; for it is a matter of great conſequence and gain, to bring the firſt herrings into the Sound; for there they are eſteemed as partridges with us, at their firſt coming: but now of late years the Hollanders are prohibited by the ſtate, carrying or trucking away their herrings, till they firſt land them in Holland; which will prove the more commodious to us."

Sir William proceeds next, to ſtate the expence of a buſs of ſeventy tons from the ſtocks, with the price

of her nets, tackling, ſalt, victuals, caſks, mens wages, and other particulars; likewiſe, of a pink of forty tons, for the white fiſhery. He alſo draws a compariſon between the Weſt India trade and the Britiſh fiſheries, wherein he uſes various arguments to prove, that the latter branch is, upon the whole, more important than the former, and merits the firſt attention of the Britiſh government. "You will wonder, ſays he, being born a ſubject of England, and caſting your eyes upon the gainful ſoil of the land, that you never conceived what the ſea afforded: I confeſs it were impoſſible for you to live in that ignorance, if it did not appear by the enſuing diſcourſe, how you, your country, and eſpecially the princes of theſe realms, have been abuſed, and the profit thereof concealed.

"What better light can we have for this work, than from our neareſt and intimateſt friends the Hollanders? who, by their long travels, their exceſſive pains, their ingenious inventions, their incomparable induſtry, and provident care, have exceeded all other nations in their adventures and commerce, and made all the world familiar with them in traffic; whereby we may juſtly attribute to them, what the Chineſe aſſumed to themſelves, that only they have two eyes, the Europeans but one, and all the reſt of the world none. How can this better appear than out of their labours and our fiſh only?

"They have encreaſed the number of veſſels; they have ſupplied the world with food, which otherwiſe would have found a ſcarcity; they have advanced trade ſo abundantly, that the wealth of ſubjects and the cuſtoms of princes have found the benefit of it; and laſtly, they have thus provided for themſelves, and all people of all ſorts, though they be impotent and lame, that want employment, or that are forced to ſeek work for their maintenance.

"And becauſe their quantity of fiſh is not to be vended in their own provinces, but to be diſperſed in all

all parts of Europe, I will give you an account of it, as it has been carefully obſerved and taken out of the cuſtomhouſe books beyond the ſeas.

" In four provinces within the Sound, viz. Koningsberg, Melvin, Stetin, and Dantzick, there is vended in a year betwixt 30 and 40,000 laſt of herrings; which will amount to more than 620,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Leiſland, Rie, Regel, Narpe, and other towns within the Sound, take off above 10,000 laſts, worth 160,000 pounds.

" The Hollanders ſend into Ruſſia above 1500 laſts of herrings, ſold at 27,000 pounds; *and we not above thirty or forty laſts.*

" Stode, Hamburgh, Bremen, Embden, and upon the river Elbe, in fiſh and herrings, above 6000 laſts, ſold at 100,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" Cleveland, Juliers, up the river Rhine, Frankfort, Cologne, and over all Germany, in fiſh and herrings near 22,000 laſts, amounting to 440,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" Gelderland, Artois, Hainhaut, Brabant, Flanders, and the Archduke's countries, 8 or 9000 laſts, ſold at eighteen pounds the laſt, amounts to 160,000 pounds; *and we none.*

" At Roan in Normandy, 500 laſts of herrings, ſold at 10,000 pounds; *and we not* 100 *laſts*; there commonly ſold for twenty, and ſometimes thirty pounds a laſt.

" Beſides what they ſpend in Holland, and ſell there to other nations, the value of many hundred thouſand pounds.

" Now having perfected the valuation of the Hollanders fiſh, caught in our ſeas, and vended into foreign countries, our ſhame will manifeſtly appear, that of ſo many thouſand laſts of fiſh, and ſo many hundred thouſand pounds in money made by them; we cannot give account of 150 laſts taken and vended by us.

" The Hollanders are no leſs to be commended, in the benefit they make of the return of their fiſh; for what commodity ſoever any country yields in lieu thereof, they tranſport in their own veſſels into Holland, where they have a continual ſtaple of all commodities brought out of the ſouth, from thence ſent into the north and the eaſt countries: the like they do from out of the north into the ſouth, their ſhips continually going and bringing ineſtimable profit; like a weaver's ſhuttle, he caſts from one hand to another, ever in action, till his gain appear in the cloth he makes.

" But the greateſt navigation of theirs, and of moſt importance to their ſtate, for maintenance of ſhips of burthen and ſtrength, is into the Streights, from the port of Marſeilles, along the coaſt as far as Venice. During theſe eighteen years laſt paſt they have ſo increaſed their navigation, whereas before they had not above two ſhips to five of ours within the Streights, within the ſaid eighteen years they are able to ſhew ten of theirs to one of ours, and merely by the trade of fiſh; for true it is, that there is no commodity in the world of ſo great bulk and ſmall value, or that can ſet ſo many ſhips of burthen to work.

" The principal work I am at, is how to undertake the Hollanders with our own weapons, and how to equal them with pinks, buſſes, and other veſſels, till we be made partners with them in their fiſhing; not by hoſtility, or uncivil uſage, nor to deprive them by his majeſty's prerogative, which the law of nations allows us; or out of envy to their labours; or to revenge diſcourteſies: only we will ſeek to do what nature dictates, viz. *to enjoy, and make uſe of our own*, by the countenance of our bleſſed king, that in juſtice gives all people their right and due.

" I preſent you not with toys to pleaſe children, or with ſhadows of untruths; for I know truth to be ſo noble of itſelf, that it makes him honourable that pronounces it; and that an honeſt man will rather

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bear witneſs againſt friendſhip than truth. I have made it appear with what facility the Hollanders go through with the golden mine of theirs, which they ſo term in their proclamation extant: I make proof that their buſſes and pinks are built to take fiſh; that they fill themſelves thrice a ſummer with fiſh; that this fiſh is vended and eſteemed as a precious food in all the parts of Europe; and that the return thereof gives them means to live and breath; without which they could not.

" It is manifeſt that fiſh has brought them to a great ſtrength both by land and ſea, and fame withal, in maintaining their inteſtine war againſt ſo great and potent an enemy as the king of Spain.

" And if all theſe benefits appear in them, and nothing but ſhame and ſcorn in us, let us enter into the cauſe thereof, and ſeek to amend it; let us labour to follow their example, which is better than a ſchoolmaſter to teach us. Nothing is our bane but idleneſs, which ingenders ignorance, and ignorance error; all which we may be taxed with; for to a ſlothful man nothing is ſo eaſy, but it will prove difficult, if it be not done willingly.

" There are but two things required in this work; that is to ſay, a will to undertake it, and money to go through with it, which being found, we will place charity to begin at home with ourſelves, before we yield it to our neighbours; and then this buſineſs will appear to be effected with more benefit, more ſtrength, more renown, more happineſs, and leſs expence, than Hollanders have or can go through withal. Time is the moſt precious experience; and you ſhall find that time will cure our careleſſneſs paſt, that reaſon could not hitherto do.

" The inſtruments by which the Hollanders work, are their veſſels of ſeveral kinds, as I have declared, not produced out of their own country; for it yields nothing to further it, but their own pains and labour.

" Their wood, timber, and planks to build ſhips, they fetch out of divers other places; and yet are theſe no more available to undertake their fiſhing and navigation, than weapons are without hands to fight. Their iron, hemp, cordage, barrel boards, bread, and malt, they are beholding for to ſeveral countries; and if at any time out of diſpleaſure they be prohibited the tranſportation, they are to ſeek a new occupation, for the ſtate fails.

" Comparing their caſualties and inconveniencies with ours, you ſhall diſcern the advantage and benefit God has given us, in reſpect of them; for all the materials formerly repeated, that go to their ſhipping, England yields moſt of them, or in little time the earth will be made to produce them in abundance; ſo that we ſhall not need to ſtand upon the courteſy of our neighbours, or to venture the hazard of the ſea in fetching them.

" Whereas all manner of people, of what degree ſoever in Holland, have commonly a ſhare, according to their abilities, in this fiſhing; and that the only exception amongſt ourſelves, is the want of money to undertake it, you ſhall underſtand how God and Nature have provided for us; for I will apparently anſwer the objection of money, and caſt it upon the ſluggiſhneſs and ill diſpoſition of our people, who if they will take away the cauſe of this imputation, they ſhall take away the offence due to it, and by which we are ſcandilized.

" In the objection of lack of money to ſet on foot this work, it would ſeem ridiculous to ſtrangers that behold the wealth and glory of this kingdom, with the ſumptuous buildings, the coſtly inſide of houſes, the maſs of plate to deck them, the daily hoſpitality and number of ſervants to honour their maſters, and their charitable alms diſtributed out of their ſuperfluities. And to deſcend to people in particular, if they behold the bravery of apparel vainly ſpent, the rich and curious jewels to adorn their bodies, and

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the needleſs expences yearly waſted, they would conclude, that it was not want, but will, that muſt be our impediment."

After enumerating the various natural productions raiſed in England favourable to the fiſheries, Sir William enforces his favourite theme, by ſundry nautical remarks, all of them proving, beyond a doubt, the ſuperior advantages which the natives enjoy from their local ſituation; and the vaſt riches, which are yet in ſtore, from this inexhauſtible ſource, to all Britiſh ſubjects, who ſhall ſearch after them.

He deſcribes the various qualities of ſalt moſt proper for the fiſheries, made on the coaſt of Europe and Africa. "And, ſays he, for ſuch ſalt as ſhall be uſed in the Lewis (one of the Hebride iſlands) there is no place lies more convenient, for the making of ſalt of any kind, than in that iſland, the ſea having an extraordinary ſaltneſs, and the country affording ſo great plenty of fuel *.

"The Engliſh and Scottiſh fiſhermen that ſhall uſe that fiſhing, ſhall find as great, and as extraordinary profit and gain, by receiving their ſalt at the iſland when they ſhall there arrive, as the freight of their ſhips will come to; for whereas they uſe now to bring in their ſhip the beſt part of their lading in ſalt, finding their ſalt made ready to their hands, inſtead of ſalt, they ſhall lade themſelves with casks, and other things wanting for their uſe."

Nature having thus beſtowed the herring fiſhery on the Scottiſh ſhores, as an equivalent for her ſcanty diſpenſations in ſoil and climate, it is but fair, that the inhabitants ſhould be permitted the full enjoyment thereof; or, at leaſt, ſome excluſive privileges, by which they may not only arrive much earlier at

* This is not the caſe at preſent, unleſs he means turf. To the ſcarcity of timber in thoſe iſlands, is added an impolitic duty on coals carried thither from the Clyde, a grievance which requires immediate redreſs.

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foreign markets than the Dutch, but alſo be enabled to ſell their cargoes ſomewhat cheaper.

Many have been the conjectures why foreigners are indulged with the monopoly of this fiſhery, but no perſon hath yet been able to advance an argument in favour of it. To ſuffer our own people to ſtarve, emigrate, and deſolate the country, through want of employment, by thus permitting ſtrangers to ſeize the proviſions, and means of commerce, which nature deſigned for the natives only, is one of thoſe paradoxes in politics, ſo peculiar to the preſent age, and which will remain inexplicable till the end of time.

" All the ſhoals (ſays an anonymous author) appointed by the immutable decree, to poſſeſs the firths and bays on the eaſt ſhore of Britain come into the German ſea by the eaſt ſide of Shetland, and that not many leagues from the ſhore; as thoſe appointed to ſpawn in our north and weſt bays of Scotland, which are much the greater numbers, ſwim by the weſt ſide of it.

" But theſe natives of our Scots bays in the German ſea ſwim cloſe by the ſhore, which is the reaſon they cannot eſcape, and are ſo broken, that they never come in confirmed ſhoals, or great bodies, to their ſpawning beds, any year the Dutch can conſtantly keep at ſea the months of June and July. For how is it poſſible to eſcape 5 or 600 miles of nets that every night ſtrains every foot length of water five or ſix leagues from the ſhore?

" Every Dutch buſs has a large mile length of very deep nets dragging after him every night from ſun-ſet to ſun-riſing. There are about 6 or 700 of them come now generally out; the conſtant ſtation of all theſe is the eaſt coaſt of Shetland; they never go further than four or five leagues from the ſhore, yea I have ſeen them fiſh within half a league. The nearer the ſhore, ſo that there is water deep enough to keep their nets from the bottom, they fiſh the better: for the herrings that make their courſe to the

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eaſt coaſt ſwim cloſe by the ſhore: for no compaſs more juſtly directs the ſhip to her port, than the leaders of that innumerable army of herring guides their body to the particular bay or firth natural to them, and they directly make for.

"They many years make two or three loaded returns; and this laſt ſummer (1728) though our few buſſes came home almoſt empty, I am credibly informed, the Dutch, after ours came away, carried two or three freights home, though it is certain the ſtorminess of the ſummer hindered their fiſhing the true right herring on the coaſts of Shetland; but the latter end of the year, by their good patience, they ſtaid out the bad weather, and though they did not fiſh the good fat herring they commonly uſed, in the proper ſtation for ſuch herring, they followed the herring, picked up their loadings of ſpent big-belly'd ones on the coaſts of Caithneſs, Buchan, Bamff, and all the Murray Firth. Any was better than going home empty handed.

"It was happy for our ſhallow waters, or firth-fiſhing, the ſummer was ſo bad, that the Dutch could not fiſh on the eaſt coaſt of Shetland, to take, break, or divert the ſhoals, that by the command, and unalterable decree of the firſt omnipotent *fiat*, are appointed conſtantly to keep that very rout, to come to our ſhores and propagate their kinds. For, ſince the French in Queen Anne's reign, burnt 5 or 600 Dutch buſſes in one day, we had not ſo many herrings in our firths and bays on the eaſt coaſt of Scotland, as we had this year."

Beſides the detriment to the Britiſh fiſhery as above related, and frequently mal-treating the natives, the Dutch, by means of their univerſal correſpondence, are enabled to foreſtal the European markets even before the herrings are taken, a circumſtance which will, unavoidably, retard the progreſs of the native fiſhery, notwithſtanding every effort of government in ſuppott of it. Of this we have an inſtance in the year 1771, when the herrings exported from Glaſ-

gow, and the ports of Clyde, to Ireland, America, the Weſt Indies, and elſewhere, amounted to 14,818 barrels only. Thoſe exported from the north, and eaſtern ſhores of Scotland were ſtill leſs conſiderable. Bnt ſo ſoon as foreigners are prohibited this fiſhery, or ſubjected to certain regulations, ſo ſoon will our own people export, poſſibly, to the amount of 3 or 400,000 barrels of red and pickled herrings annually; the good effects of which, will even reach the capital, and every manufacturing town in England, by the demands for goods, to ſupply the wants of an active people thus enriched.

Of late years the Dutch herring fiſhery hath been on the decline, in theſe ſeas. This is partly owing to the great increaſe of commerce and wealth, amongſt that people, and partly to the want of markets, ariſing from the rivalſhip of the Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Hamburghers, &c. who now frequent the Scottiſh ſeas, and are equally expert in curing, as the Dutch. The fiſhery, though the hands be changed, remains invariably the ſame, to all thoſe who chooſe to reſort thither. It is an inexhauſtible mine of wealth, ſufficient to enrich a conſiderable part of the Scottiſh nation, beſides the giving employment, as in Holland, to people of thirty different profeſſions.

The fiſheries are the natural, and moſt permanent exports of Scotland to foreign parts. It was by means of the fiſheries that the princes of that kingdom were enabled to erect, in the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries, thoſe numerous and magnificent eccleſiaſtical edifices, whoſe ruins, even at this time, are beheld with admiration. It was the fiſheries which procured that gallant nation the weapons and means of ſelf-defence, againſt all invaders, however formidable; and which enabled them not only to defend their liberties, but to drive their enemies with great loſs and diſgrace, from a country which, with indefatigable perſeverance, they labour to ſubjugate. It was the fiſheries which lined the eaſtern coaſts with populous thriving towns, filled their ware-houſes with the various

rious produce of Europe, their cellars with the choiceſt wines; and which, combined with ſervices performed by Scotſmen in the armies of contending princes, gained that nation many diſtinguiſhed privileges abroad, which it enjoyed uninterrupted, while it remained a ſeparate kingdom.

To the decay of public ſpirit, after the death of James V. was owing the decay of the fiſheries, and the decline of national importance. In proportion as Scotland loſt ſight of its true intereſt, and neglected to proſecute the fiſheries with its former vigour, in the ſame proportion did the Dutch by thoſe means riſe to power, wealth, and fame.

If, therefore, the Scots wiſh to recover their hereditary patrimony, the ſtable ſource of commerce, navigation, and national conſequence, they will embrace this ſeaſon of commercial regulation, to ſecure the fiſheries to their rightful owners, either by a total prohibition of all foreigners from fiſhing within a limited diſtance of the Scottiſh ſhores; or, by ſubjecting them to ſuch tonnage, or duties, as will prevent them from engroſſing foreign markets. This the Scots have a right to expect; it is the law of nations, the language of common ſenſe; even the Dutch themſelves could not deem it unreaſonable. On the contrary, they have ſet the example, in their inſignificant fiſhery upon their own ſhores, which they farm, or let out to the beſt bidder; thereby making a property of the ſea; and, if report be true, they exclude all foreigners from ſharing therein, by purchaſe or otherwiſe. The propoſition, now ſuggeſted, would anſwer another valuable end in favour of Scotland. The annual revenue, thus paid by foreigners, might be veſted in the board of truſtees at Edinburgh, to be by them appropriated, unalienably, within that kingdom, and upon ſuch objects of national utility, as might ſeem moſt conducive to the general welfare.

Of the Eaſtern Fiſheries.

THE herring fiſheries on the eaſt ſide of Scotland were, antiently, very conſiderable; inſomuch, that 3 or 400 veſſels reſorted annually, from various parts of Europe, to a fair held at St. Andrews, then a town of two miles in circumference, and which poſſeſſed above ſeventy veſſels, and a flouriſhing commerce. That place was plundered, and completely ruined by Cromwell's army, and hath not, to the preſent time, been able to recover itſelf. The ſame fate befel Dundee, and all the populous trading towns on the Forth, which were, formerly, the glory of North Britain.

A ſmall herring fiſhery is, however, carried on by boats along that ſide of the iſland, from Wick in Caithneſs to the river Forth, but ſubject to ſundry duties and fees, which it would be expedient to aboliſh.

Nothing can contribute more to the full reſtoration of theſe eaſtern fiſheries, than navigable communications to the weſt ſide of the iſland; where, ſhould the Eaſt Country markets prove at any time unfavourable, the people would always find a demand at Glaſgow, or Greenock, for that of the Weſt Indies. Theſe navigations would alſo facilitate the correſpondence between the Eaſt Country and Spain, Portugal, the Mediterranean, the Canaries, and other Weſtern Iſlands, where herrings are highly eſteemed. By thus enjoying every poſſible chance of markets, the fiſheries would gradually increaſe, and thoſe eaſtern ſhores recover their former ſplendour.

Having, in this manner, connected the various herring fiſheries under one general head, ſtating their importance to mankind, and the means by which they may be rendered more ſubſervient to the commercial intereſt of the Britiſh kingdoms; it is hoped that the following outlines of a plan, for the improvement of the *Weſtern Fiſheries*, will not be deemed

deemed unworthy of notice; eſpecially, as the utility of the propoſal, is ſtrongly enforced by the very diſtreſſed ſituation of the inhabitants.

The expediency of erecting Villages and Harbours in the Weſt Highlands—The plan of thoſe Villages—The moſt proper ſituations—Eſtimates of the Expence.

THE neceſſity of bringing the Highlanders nearer to the Low Countries, by means of inland navigation, hath already been mentioned. The facility and eaſe by which that buſineſs may be completed, hath alſo been explained: and no argument, of any weight, can be advanced againſt its being carried immediately into execution. A requiſition founded on humanity, juſtice, and national expediency, cannot have many opponents. Happy would it be, was this the only expence neceſſary to extend the fiſheries, and to eſtabliſh in thoſe parts, a populous colony of uſeful ſubjects. In a country where ſoil and climate have been ſo niggardly of their favours, ſome further indulgence is requiſite. The people ſhould be comfortably lodged, and accommodated with proviſions, utenſils, ſtores, and firing. This implies the erection of villages at convenient diſtances, and in the moſt eligible ſituations on thoſe extenſive ſhores.

After having ſelected the particular lakes deſtined to become the ſcenes of population and buſineſs, it would be neceſſary to examine into the depth of water, the rivulets, timber, metals, ſoil, and other particulars; and to have drawings of each reſpective lake, for the inſpection of government, and the public.

The buſineſs thus far advanced, an act of parliament would be requiſite to enable the board of truſtees at Edinburgh, to purchaſe ſundry lands, whereon to erect the buildings, and to accommodate the ſame with ſmall gardens and fields. Every village would alſo require a territorial revenue, from 2 to 300 pounds, for the ſupport of a clergyman, free-

ſchool,

ſchool, repairs, and other purpoſes, at the diſcretion of the truſtees in time being.

The expence of lands, thus purchaſed, for the various purpoſes of building, accommodating, and endowing every reſpective village, may be eſtimated at 10,000 pounds.

The buildings requiſite at the firſt eſtabliſhment of the propoſed villages are,

1. A key or breaſt, for ſmall craft.

2. A range of warehouſes, for caſks, ſtaves, hoops, ſalt, nets, fiſh, oil, grain, meal, ſkins, wool, flax, bark, timber, coals and other bulky articles.

3. Sheds, for perſons employed in gutting, ſalting, and curing the herrings; with lofts where the people may be ſheltered at night, from the inclemency of the weather. Every village ſhould alſo be furniſhed with materials for erecting temporary ſheds or tents for the conveniency of occaſional diſtant fiſheries.

4. A ſmall market place.

5. A corn mill.

6. A church, and houſe for the miniſter.

7. A ſchool houſe, where reading, writing, the common rules of arithmetic, and practical navigation, may be taught gratis.

8. A public inn.

There might, poſſibly, be ſome difficulty in procuring uſeful mechanics to ſettle in theſe remote parts, previous to the regular eſtabliſhment of fiſheries, and commercial intercourſe. Therefore, to encourage adventurers, as coopers, carpenters, net makers, blackſmiths, &c. it would be neceſſary to build fifteen or twenty dwelling houſes, where theſe perſons might live rent free; each houſe to be accommodated with three ſmall incloſures. 1. For a garden and offices. 2. For potatoes. 3. For the ſupport of a cow.

Such luxuries as theſe, with variety of fiſh at no expence, would draw thither uſeful workmen from every

every quarter, and give ſtability to all the valuable purpoſes propoſed by the public.

Conſidering the great plenty of materials for building in theſe parts; as ſtone, lime, timber, ſlate; and the cheapneſs of workmanſhip; a village, thus compoſed of ſmall neat houſes, might be raiſed by contract, at no great expence. The whole, including the keys, warehouſes, &c. might poſſibly be completed for 10,000 pounds; conſequently the erecting of ten commodious ſeaport towns, would coſt no more than — — — 100,000
Endowing of ditto — — 100,000
The inland navigations, as ſtated in page 43 127,000

£. 327,000

A ſum ſcarcely equal to the average expence of Gibraltar for one year only, and which would ſoon be repaid by an increaſe of trade and revenue. But, ſhould any of the towns fail of ſucceſs, ſo as not to anſwer the valuable ends propoſed by government, the lands, and other property, could at any time be ſold, and the money refunded to the Exchequer, or applied to ſome other public uſes.

The moſt eligible ſituations for Towns.

THE ſituations moſt proper for the erection of towns, magazines, or marts, ſeem to be at the undermentioned places on the mainland.

1. At the propoſed junction of the Atlantic with Lochfyne, in Argyleſhire. This ſituation hath the advantage of a ſoil partly level, and tolerably fertile. The ſurrounding diſtricts abound in black cattle, woods, ſlate, white marble, and limeſtone. The cattle are driven to the Low Countries for ſale; the woods are uſed in forges, and burnt for charcoal to ſupply the iron works in Lancaſhire. Eſdale and

other ſmall iſlands on the coaſt, are compoſed entirely of ſlate, of which near three millions are tranſported annually to various parts of Britain, Europe, and America. This place having the ocean on the weſt ſide, and Lochfyne on the eaſt, enjoys every poſſible advantage for the fiſheries. Situated amidſt the ſhoals of herrings which occaſionally viſit Lochfyne and the Firth of Clyde, the inhabitants would be ready on the firſt approach of theſe fiſh, and in all kinds of weather, to ſink their nets; thereby gaining, almoſt at their doors, the means of commerce and wealth. Or, ſhould the herrings appear on the weſt ſide of the Peninſula, the people, by means of the canal, would ſoon arrive at the fortunate lake or bay.

Their local ſituation, and ſuperior opulence, would alſo enable them to embark in the white fiſhery with ſtouter boats, and better manned and provided, than any which the indigent people on theſe weſtern ſhores can at preſent afford. This place would likewiſe become the great reſort and thoroughfare of mankind, a centrical mart, to which the Highlanders from all parts of the mainland, and the iſlands, would bring their fiſh, oil, feathers, ſkins, wool, timber, bark, ſlate, kelp, and other uſeful articles of commerce, as to a ready market; or, ſhould that fail, they would find themſelves within two tides of Greenock upon the Clyde, of itſelf a conſiderable mercantile town, but ſtill more important, from its being the chief port of Glaſgow, a city well known in the commercial world. On the other hand, the people of the Low Countries would reſort to this Highland mart, to ſell or barter their various manufactures; and even the Engliſh riders, who in all ſeaſons, and in all kinds of weather, pay their reſpects to every town in Scotland, would find the way to the banks of Lochfyne, with their ſamples from London, Birmingham, Mancheſter, Sheffield, Leeds, and other induſtrious towns of that populous kingdom. Upon the whole, the

iſland

iſland of Great Britain does not preſent a ſituation more conducive to general utility, than the propoſed opening, or paſs, to this *terra incognita* of our iſland, abounding in woods, mines, and inexhauſtible fiſheries. It would be the key to the Weſt Highlands, and to thoſe numerous, helpleſs iſlands which have hitherto been excluded the ſociety of mankind; whoſe hoſpitable and virtuous natives, have been left to the mercy of boiſterous elements, and unpropitious ſeaſons, to languiſh, and to periſh through famine and neglect. This therefore becomes the firſt object of attention in the improvement of theſe weſtern ſhores; the key ſtone to the whole arrangement; worthy the immediate attention of the legiſlature, and calling ſtrongly, upon the feelings of every liberal, humane mind.

Lochfyne, beſides the narrow channels at its entrance, is the largeſt of all the Scottiſh lakes, being forty miles in length, from one to four in breadth, and from fifty to ſeventy fathoms in depth. The herrings ſometimes croud in ſhoals to the very head of it; purſued by the larger fiſhes, and attended by gulls and other voracious ſea fowls, which ſkim inceſſantly upon the ſurface of the waters.

On the weſt ſide of this lake is Inverary, the ſummer reſidence of the antient and illuſtrious houſe of Argyle, deſcended from a line of kings; a family of diſtinguiſhed warriors, patriots, and ſtateſmen; the hereditary patrons of arts, ſcience and improvements; to whom their country is chiefly obligated for that excellent inſtitution, *The Board of Truſtees*, and the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of that important ſtaple, the linen manufacture.

The environs of this magnificent ſeat, abound in thriving plantations; ſome of the trees are of a great age, and in fine perfection. The inhabitants of the town are well lodged in houſes of ſtone, lime, and ſlate. They are fully employed in arts and manu-

factures; plentifully supplied in the necessaries of life; and in every respect happy under the benevolent hand of the present proprietor. A noble example to the gentlemen of the Highlands, whose efforts, if assisted by government, may, even in the present age, reclaim their hitherto useless country.

2. Keeping due north, upon the western shore, we come to OBAN BAY, defended from west winds by the island of Kerrera, and from other winds, by the high lands on the continent. This bay is in depth from eleven to twenty-six fathom water. Besides, the whole sound of Kerrera is in effect a harbour, or at least a commodious road, with twenty fathom water, and good anchorage almost throughout. There are two havens in the island, one having an outlet to the north east, the other to the north west; insomuch that vessels may enter and depart without inconveniency, and with any wind. Oban is also in the tract of the fishing busses and coasters passing to and from the North Highlands; and, being situated at the entrance of the great Loch Linnhe, it may be considered as the western port of the proposed navigation between the Atlantic and Inverness. A beginning hath already been made towards forwarding a town at Oban, which, besides its being almost surrounded with lakes, bays, and fisheries, stands in the most fruitful part of Argyleshire called Mid-Lorn. In its neighbourhood there is an iron furnace, the property of Englishmen, from Lancashire, who bring the ore to this place on account of the natural woods in its vicinity.

3. LOCH SUNART. A fine lake penetrating twenty miles into the country of Morvern in Argyleshire; it is shaded with woods, enriched with small islands, and hath a profitable lead mine at Strontian. The district around Loch Sunart contains 2500 inhabitants; the isle of Mull, to which it is contiguous, hath 4000. This lake opens into the north entrance of the Sound

of Mull, facing Tobirmoire Bay, an extenſive circular baſon, ſecure from all winds, and of ſufficient depth for ſhips of the line.

4. BERNERA. Here terminates the military road from Edinburgh and Glaſgow, on the ſouth, and from Inverneſs and Fort Auguſtus, on the eaſt. It is the uſual paſs between the continent and the Iſle of Sky, and was on that account judged a proper ſtation for a garriſon, which, in 1722, was accommodated with barracks ſufficient to lodge 200 men. Bernera hath Loch Duich on the north, Loch Urn * on the ſouth, and the great iſland of Sky, containing from 12 to 15000 people, in front; from which it is ſeparated by a narrow but navigable channel. Being thus a great thoroughfare by land and water, abounding in people, cattle, fiſh, and timber, it hath a ſtrong claim to public aſſiſtance in the forming of a town.

Here Dr. Johnſon experienced the hard fate of all travellers who are under the neceſſity of putting up

* Mr. Pennant thus deſcribes Loch Urn, which curioſity led him to explore in a boat.——" Beyond that was another reach, and an inſtaneous and agreeable view of a great fleet of buſſes (Auguſt 6) and all the buſy apparatus of the herring fiſhery; an unexpected ſight at the diſtance of thirteen miles from the ſea. A little further the Loch has a very narrow inlet to a third reach: this ſtrait is ſo ſhallow as to be fordable at the ebb of ſpring tides: yet has within, the depth of ten and ſeventeen fathom: the length is about a mile; the breadth a quarter. About ſeven years ago it was ſo filled with herrings, that had crouded in, that the boats could not force their way, and thouſands lay dead on the ebb.

" The ſcenery that ſurrounds the whole of this lake, has an alpine wildneſs and magnificence, the hills of an enormous height, and for the moſt part cloathed with extenſive foreſts of oak and birch, often to the very ſummits. In many places are extenſive tracts of open ſpace, verdant, and only varied with a few trees ſcattered over them: amidſt the thickeſt woods aſpire vaſt grey rocks, a noble contraſt! nor are the lofty headlands a leſs embelliſhment; for through the trees that wave on their ſummit, is an awful ſight of ſky, and ſpiring ſummits of vaſt mountains.

" On the ſouth ſide, or the country of Knodyart, are vaſt numbers of pines, ſcattered among the other trees, and multitudes of young ones ſpringing up."

at the inns of theſe neglected regions. Having travelled from Fort Auguſtus through an almoſt uninhabited tract of near fifty miles, he was told at Glenelg, that on the ſea ſide, he would come to a houſe of lime and ſlate and glaſs. This image of magnificence raiſed his expectations. At laſt he arrived at the inn, weary and peeviſh, and began to enquire for proviſions and beds. Of the proviſions the negative bill of fair was very copious. Here was no meat, no milk, no bread, no eggs, no wine. He did not expreſs much ſatisfaction. Here, however, he was to ſtay. A new diſappointment awaited him. He goes to examine his lodging. Out of one of the beds, on which he was to repoſe himſelf, ſtarted up, at his entrance, a man black as a cyclops from the forge. Sleep, however, was neceſſary. A faithful guide from Inverneſs, at laſt found ſome hay, which the inn could not ſupply. He directed the Highlander to bring a bundle of it into the room, and ſlept upon it in his riding coat. Mr. Boſwell being more delicate, laid himſelf ſheets with hay over and under him, and lay in linen like a gentleman.

The lakes on this coaſt are ſo numerous, extenſive, and important, that it is difficult to paſs over any one of them without ſaying, Here is a proper ſtation for a town, a harbour, a market, and a church. We muſt however, agreeable to our limited plan, omit the deſcription of three fourths of theſe extenſive waters, though, all of them, the occaſional reſort of thoſe kind viſitors which compoſe the riches of the Caledonian ſhores.

5. Gare Loch. Paſſing by Loch Duich, Carran, Kiſſerne, and Torridon, we come to Gare Loch a capacious bay extending ſeveral miles within land, inhabited by 3000 people, who are alternately engaged in the herring and white fiſheries. Beſides the deep indented ſhores of this part of the continent, here is a channel, forty miles in width, bounded on the

the weſt by the Lewis or Long Iſland *, whoſe ſhores, as well as the intervening ſea, are one continued receptacle of white fiſh, herrings, ſeals, &c. but thoſe ſources of wealth are almoſt loſt to the poor natives, from their remote ſituation, and the equally hazardous navigation by the Pentland Firth, and the Mull of Cantire. To this diſtrict therefore, the propoſed paſſage, into Loch Fyne, and the Clyde, will be attended with the moſt ſolid advantages †.

6. Loch Ewe. This capacious bay penetrates eight miles into the country, where it receives, through a narrow paſſage, the waters of Loch Maree, a beautiful freſh water lake, fifteen miles in length, of great depth, abounding in ſalmon, char, and trout. Of the laſt mentioned, is a ſpecies which weighs from twenty-five to thirty pounds. The banks and headlands of this lake are, as uſual, fringed with woods. The narrow ſtrait which unites the waters of Loch Ewe and Maree is the centrical ſtation between Inverneſs on the eaſt, and Lewis on the weſt, communi-

* A range of iſlands connected, or nearly ſo, at low water; and extending from north to ſouth 120 miles in length. The ſouthern parts are the moſt fruitful of all the Hebrides: the whole might, by proper management, give employment to 10,000 able ſeamen.

† "Herrings, ſays Mr. Pennant, offer themſelves in ſhoals from June to January; cod fiſh abound on the great Sand Bank, one corner of which reaches to this bay, and is ſuppoſed to extend as far as Cape Wrath; and ſouth, as low as Rona, off Sky, with various branches, all ſwarming with cod and ling. The fiſhery is carried on with long lines, begins in February, and ends in April. The annual capture is uncertain, from 5 to 27,000. The natives at preſent labour under ſome oppreſſions, which might be eaſily removed, to the great advancement of this commerce. The want of a town is very ſenſibly felt in all thoſe parts: there is no one commodity, no one article of life, or implement of fiſhery, but what is gotten with difficulty, and at a great price, brought from a diſtance by thoſe who are to make advantage of the neceſſities of the people. A town would create a market, a market would ſoon occaſion a concourſe of ſhipping, who would then arrive with a certainty of a cargo ready taken for them; and the mutual wants of ſtranger and native would be ſupplied at an eaſy rate."

cating with the former, by a military road, with the latter, by a government packet. It is the laſt thoroughfare between the two ſeas, in Great Britain; on which account, as well as its ſituation for the freſh, and ſalt water fiſheries, it hath a claim to public attention.

7. Loch Broom. The entrance to this celebrated lake forms a capacious bay, twelve miles in length, and from five to ten in width. Loch Broom extends nine miles farther into the country, is generally one mile in width, and of great depth. This lake on the weſt, and the Firth of Cromarty on the eaſt, approach ſo near each other, that the diſtance between the two ſeas does not exceed thirty miles. The produce of the country around Loch Broom are cattle, which are generally purchaſed by graziers from Yorkſhire, alſo timber, mountains of marble and limeſtone. The rivers and freſh water lakes communicating with Loch Broom abound in ſalmon, trout, and char. The ſhores are populous, but the people are diſcontented, and ſtrongly diſpoſed to emigrate *. On theſe accounts Loch Broom appears to be a proper ſtation for a town or village, and ſtill more ſo when we conſider it in a commercial light.

This lake is not only the greateſt reſort of herrings in Britain, but the fiſh have the reputation of being the richeſt, largeſt, and moſt delicious of any

* "The pariſh of Loch Broom, ſays Mr. Pennant, is one of the largeſt on the Mainland of Scotland, being thirty-ſix miles long, and twenty broad. It has in it ſeven places of worſhip, but is deſtitute of a parochial ſchool. None of the people except the gentry underſtand Engliſh. Diſpirited and driven to deſpair by bad management, crowds were now paſſing, emaciated with hunger, to the eaſtern coaſt, on the report of a ſhip being there loaded with meal. Numbers of the miſerables of this country were now (1774) migrating: they wandered in a ſtate of deſperation; too poor to pay, they madly ſell themſelves, for their paſſage, preferring a temporary bondage in a ſtrange land, to ſtarving for life in their native ſoil."

that

that have been taken in the European ſeas *. It hath therefore been the chief ſcene of the Weſtern fiſhery for many ages, and is, at preſent, the moſt uſual rendezvous of the buſſes from the Clyde, though much diſcouraged by the dangers of a long navigation, which, as hath already been obſerved, might be ſhortened at a trifling expence.

8. From Loch Broom to Cape Wrath, the lakes diminiſh in ſize, though not in number, and the coaſt is leſs populous. It is a country little known, and almoſt cut off from any intercourſe with mankind. Lying, however, in the tract of ſhipping to and from the Baltic, a harbour towards Cape Wrath, would prove a moſt deſirable ſhelter amidſt the hazardous navigation, and frequent hurricanes on that northern ſhore.

Having thus appropriated the moſt conſiderable part of the ſuppoſed fund, in forming a line of ſmall, but uſeful harbours, for the conveniency of theſe diſtreſſed inhabitants, the improvement of the fiſheries, and the benefit of navigation; it is propoſed to apply

* "At Yarmouth, ſays Sir William Monſon, we may account the goodneſs of the herrings ſpent; for betwixt Winterton and Orfordneſs they uſe to ſpawn, and are called by the Hollanders the ropeſick herrings, which they forbear to take.

"From Orfordneſs the herrings direct their courſe to the North Foreland in Kent, where they furniſh both the Engliſh and French ſhores with ſo many as are taken by both nations, though they be both ſhotten, and of the worſt kind.

"An eaſterly wind carries them the length of our channel, till they arrive at the Land's End in Cornwall, from thence they divide themſelves like a fleet of ſhips that ſhould be directed by a general: ſome go through St. George's Channel, betwixt England and Ireland; others to the weſtward of Ireland, till they arrive at the Iſlands of Hebrides the place of rendezvous; and we may ſuppoſe they are at home, by the ſtrength and goodneſs they find in that place; for though they run the length of our channel lean and ſick, yet as ſoon as they repair to thoſe iſlands, they become the largeſt, the faireſt, and the beſt herrings in the world; and here they are taken in loughs and harbours, as I have ſaid, and valued at forty ſhillings the laſt above others."

the

the remaining moity, on the north and eaſtern ſhores, with a view to the ſame valuable purpoſes.

After paſſing round Cape Wrath, we enter upon an extenſive coaſt facing the northern ocean, which hath always been conſidered by mariners as the moſt dangerous, and difficult navigation in theſe kingdoms, if not in Europe. To the dark fogs, and frequent hurricanes of the north ſeas, are added the whirlpools, counter tides, and violent currents of the Pentland Firth, occaſioned by the vaſt weight of the ocean falling upon the narrow channel which ſeparates the continent from the Orkney Iſlands. The rapidity of theſe currents, at certain periods of the tide, often baffle all the efforts of the moſt ſkilful ſeamen, to prevent veſſels from being driven againſt the rocks or ſhores on either ſide of this tremendous paſſage. The navigation is equally hazardous in calm, as in ſtormy weather; becauſe, in a dead calm, the ſhip, not being under the government of the helm, is hurried on, with irreſiſtible velocity, to whatever direction the current leads, whether towards the impending rock, the ſandy beach, or the open ſea. On the other hand, ſhould a veſſel be driven into the Firth by the violence of a tempeſt, in the dark winter's night, her ſituation is dreadful beyond deſcription. Such is the force of the winds and waves, that ſtones of vaſt ſize are torn from the cliffs, and heaved over the high rocks, into the adjoining fields *.

Notwithſtanding

* The caverns formed by the violence of the ocean upon theſe ſhores, excite the admiration of every curious traveller. Some of them reach ſo far under ground that no perſon dares venture to the extremity. They are the reſort of ſeals and ſea dogs, which the natives, at the riſk of their lives, turn to good account. Theſe bold men enter the caverns in boats, and having lighted their torches, make a loud noiſe, which brings down the animals in a confuſed body, with frightful ſhrieks and cries. They paſs out of the cave in ſuch numbers, that the men are obliged to give way until the torrent hath ſpent itſelf, when they fall upon the ſtragglers, whom they knock on the head with clubs. The value of the ſeal conſiſts

Notwithſtanding theſe obſtructions to the navigation from Ireland, Briſtol, Liverpool, and the whole weſtern coaſt of Great Britain, to the Baltic, nothing hath been done to aſſiſt that navigation, and to leſſen the frequent diſaſters which every ſucceeding winter brings upon thoſe who are engaged in it. Here are no towns, harbours, lighthouſes, dock yards, or carpenters for the repairing of damages. The unfortunate veſſel, though reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs, muſt proceed to the Baltic, or the Iriſh channel, before ſhe can receive the ſmalleſt repair. A coaſt of near 400 miles from Ireland to the Orkneys, could not, in the greateſt emergency, furniſh a ſail, a cable, or an anchor. Theſe conſiderations ſerve to enforce the expediency of two harbours on this northern front of our iſland; one near Cape Wrath, and the other within Dungsby Head. Nor is the relief of the natives, and the improvement of the country, a matter of leſs importance. Here is a coaſt extending above ſeventy miles in length, abounding in white fiſh, ſeals, oyſters, and other ſhell fiſh. Its rivers are more copious than thoſe on the eaſt and weſt ſides of that diſtrict; they iſſue from lakes which are ſaid to ſwarm with ſalmon, beſides the incredible numbers which come in with the tides, of which, report ſays, 3500 have been taken at Thurſo in one morning. The country lying upon the coaſt is more fruitful than might be expected from its northern ſituation; it is highly improveable, and abounds in limeſtone, marle and iron ſtone. The numerous remains of Pictiſh houſes, Scottiſh caſtles, and other buildings upon the north and eaſt ſide of this diſtrict, ſeem to indicate a greater degree of population in former times. Its importance is further confirmed by the Daniſh hiſtorian Torfæus, in his account of the attempts made by his

conſiſts in its oil, which is of a ſuperior quality, and brings a high price, but the people of theſe ſhores are too poor to carry on a regular fiſhery.

countrymen

countrymen to obtain a ſettlement in theſe parts, and the able defence maintained by the natives, through a ſeries of ages, till at laſt the Danes, tired out with fruitleſs expeditions, bade a final adieu to that country.

Of the many commodious bays along this coaſt, that of Loch Eribole claims the preference, being one of the fineſt roads for ſhipping in Europe, and ſo capacious that ſhips of the line may enter it at low water, and find good anchorage. Its ſituation near Cape Wrath, renders it ſtill more worthy of conſideration, as it would be a ſafe retreat to veſſels upon their paſſage round that promontory.

Proceeding eaſtward we come to Thurſo, a place of great antiquity, and at preſent the firſt, and only town, between the Iriſh Channel and the Pentland Firth. Its utility on this narrow ſtrait, need not be mentioned; happily for mariners, it hath a commodious bay of forty feet water, where ſhips may ride out any ſtorm in perfect ſafety, but it is without a good harbour, and all thoſe conveniencies ſo neceſſary to the wants of ſhipping in this hazardous ſtrait.

Paſſing round Dungsby Head, we enter the Britiſh Sea *, which preſents a line of coaſt extending near eighty miles in length, without a harbour, and ſcarcely a town that merits notice. It hath all the advantages of the fiſheries, which have ſo often been deſcribed, though in a leſs degree than thoſe on the weſtern coaſt. It is commodiouſly ſituated for com-

* Stiled in foreign maps, the *German Ocean*, but with great impropriety, as it barely touches that empire; whereas it waſhes the whole eaſtern ſhore of Great Britain from the Pentland Firth to the Straits of Dover. Neither hath it any claim to the appellation of *ocean*, which implies a great body of water without any entire ſeparation of its parts by land, as the Atlantic, and the Pacific Ocean. A *ſea* being a ſmaller collection of water, confined between lands, but communicating with the ocean, juſtifies the deviation which I have made from the uſual cuſtom, reſpecting the name of what ought properly to be called, *The Britiſh Sea*.

merce,

merce, and the people are remarkably induſtrious. The only place that hath the appearance of a port, is Wick, a ſmall but antient borough-town, ſituated at the mouth of the river Wick, which forms a tide harbour for a few veſſels of ſmall burden, and might be improved. But, at the diſtance of three miles north, is Sinclair Bay, a capacious road, with good anchorage for ſhipping of any ſize. As this bay lies directly on the eaſt entrance of the Pentland Firth, as Thurſo does on that of the weſt, the expediency of a harbour on the former, muſt appear obvious to any perſon who chooſes to conſider the ſubject, and who wiſhes to aſſiſt the diſtreſt mariner, and promote the commerce of his country. Of ſtill greater importance will this place appear, when it is known, that from Wick to the Firth of Cromarty, a diſtance of ſixty miles, the ſhore is bold, rocky, and utterly inadmiſſible to ſea veſſels of any ſize, the waters of Dornoch excepted, which, however, are of no great utility to navigation, by reaſon of ſhallows and quick ſands. Neither can the Firth of Cromarty, though one of the fineſt harbours in the world, be conſidered as an aſylum to ſhips in diſtreſs, becauſe it lies out of the track of navigation. The coaſt along the Murray Firth, though more commodiouſly ſituated, is, however, deſtitute of good harbours; conſequently, a ſhip paſſing from one ſide of Great Britain to the other, by the Pentland Firth, cannot be accommodated with the ſmalleſt aſſiſtance between Peterhead and Belfaſt Loch, a voyage of 500 miles! As the ſame inconvenience attends the Baltic and Eaſt Country trade in general, it is unneceſſary to ſpeak further on the ſubject.

We ſhall therefore conclude this ſurvey, by obſerving, that the money expended in improving the Highlands, will, at the ſame time, preſerve the property of the merchants, ſave the lives of the mariners, promote the commerce, and facilitate the navigation, of all the three kingdoms.

Of

Of the Famine; the Failure of the Fiſheries; and the Hurricanes of 1782.

While I was engaged in the preceding pages, an event of the moſt calamitous nature, befel the inhoſpitable regions which I had been deſcribing. The year 1782 proved remarkably cold and wet, the crops over great part of Europe were more or leſs injured, and the northern climates experienced a ſcarcity, amounting to a famine. The ſcanty crops in the Highlands of Scotland were green in October, when a fall of ſnow attended with froſt, prevented every ſpecies of grain from arriving at maturity. The labour, the ſeed, and the ſtraw were loſt. Potatoes, which in bad ſeaſons had proved a ſubſtitute for grain, were this year froſt-bitten, and rendered entirely uſeleſs. Thus the earth withheld its bounty for the ſupport of man and beaſt. During this diſtreſs at home, no relief could be obtained from abroad. Ireland, the granary of the Hebrides and weſtern ſhores of Scotland, ſhut its ports againſt the exportation of grain; thoſe of the Clyde were unable to give any aſſiſtance; while, on the eaſtern ſide of the kingdom, the hazards of enemies cut off the neceſſary ſupplies from Germany, the Baltic, and, in a great meaſure, from England.

Thus deprived of every reſource, by the double calamity of war and ſcarcity, many hundred perſons languiſhed and died through the want of ſuſtenance. The huſband and the parent, unable to behold theſe ſcenes of diſtreſs without endeavouring to relieve them, ſet out, amidſt froſt and ſnow, upon the long and almoſt impracticable journey to Inverneſs, where they expected to purchaſe a little grain with the produce of their cloths or furniture, which they had previouſly ſold, in the diſtricts where they reſided. Several of thoſe who had engaged in this generous enterprize,

enterprize, fell a ſacrifice to hunger and cold, in their way to the market. They were found dead on the roads, in caverns, and amongſt thickets, where they had taken ſhelter from the inclemencies of the weather, while the ſmall, emaciated horſes, the companions of their diſtreſs, could ſcarcely ſtand or walk.

Such was the dreadful ſituation of the mainland, and the iſlands, during the winter and ſpring; and though expreſſes were diſpatched to the Lowlands, by the clergy and others, imploring immediate relief for a periſhing people, it doth not appear that application had been made to government, for that purpoſe, before the beginning of the ſummer 1783, when a generous ſupply was readily granted.

Let us now ſuppoſe that a few ſmall harbours and granaries were eſtabliſhed at proper diſtances, along theſe weſtern ſhores, and that the communications to the Lowlands were ſhortened by means of inland navigation; ſuch calamities, if not in a great degree prevented, might be ſo far mitigated, as to ſave the lives of thouſands, beſides obviating the neceſſity of occaſional calls upon the Treaſury for the relief of thoſe parts.

The year 1782 furniſhes another argument in favour of theſe propoſals. The annual arrival of the herrings in the Weſt Highlands had never been known to fail, completely, till this remarkable year, when theſe little viſitors ſeemed to conſpire with the ſeaſons, in order to rouſe the notice of government towards theſe diſtant ſhores. While the elements kept back or deſtroyed the regular produce of the earth, the herrings abandoned their well known lakes, directed their courſe towards the Iriſh channel, or ſtopt there, after their uſual progreſs round Lands End; and here the Highlanders, not being provided with proper veſſels, were unable to follow them.

This

This was not all. While thoſe people were deprived of grain, roots, milk, vegetables and herrings, their uſual food in good ſeaſons; an almoſt uninterrupted ſucceſſion of ſtorms, ſuch as had not happened within the memory of man, prevented them from attempting the white fiſhery; neither could they, had the weather been moderate, go to ſea without the means of ſuſtenance. Here therefore was a double famine; the cup of affliction and diſtreſs, ariſing from every poſſible cauſe, was now full. From this *ne plus ultra* of human depreſſion we entertain a hope that matters will revert into a contrary direction, under the auſpices of a benevolent ſovereign and parliament, to whoſe humane, as well as political attention, that country and people are moſt humbly recommended.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N° I.

Corroborating Proofs reſpecting the calamitous State of the Highlands.

Extract from Dr. Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain, publiſhed in 1774.

IN delivering the Hiſtory of the Hebrides, and their inhabitants, we have ſhewn (at leaſt as far as the few lights we have would allow) what they once were, and by what a ſeries of misfortunes the inhabitants of them were gradually reduced from being a populous, civilized, and thriving people, into that low and wretched ſtate in which they now are. It is to eſtabliſh this fact inconteſtably, that ſo much notice has been taken of the ruins and remains of ancient buildings erected in former ages, which from their ſolidity and extent clearly evince, independent of hiſtory and tradition, a ſuperior number of people, by whoſe labour and for whoſe uſe they were raiſed.

By the deſcription of ſome of the principal iſles, it is hoped they are proved to be in themſelves, and from their natural advantages, ſtill very conſiderable, worthy of public attention, and capable of being thereby recovered. But this arduous taſk of retaining, reſtoring, and retrieving ſo many countries, ſeems, in the preſent circumſtances of the empire of Great Britain, to be a matter of much too great importance to be left without ſome further deduction.

In the firſt place, then, let it be obſerved, that theſe neglected iſles are, even at this day, far from being deſtitute of things neceſſary for the ſubſiſtence of much larger numbers than are at preſent contained in them *, and that they are likewiſe very far from wanting

* The doctor muſt mean various ſpecies of fiſh, and the returns which may eaſily be procured in exchange for theſe, ſo ſoon as commerce ſhall be introduced amongſt the people. With regard to grain, the main ſupport of all European nations; theſe iſlands are in general ſo deficient, that even the beſt ſeaſons do not ſupply above one third of the people. This is particularly the caſe with Jura, Mull, Sky, and Lewis; which iſlands, comprehend more than two thirds of the whole Hebrides. Ilay, Liſmore, Colonſay, Tirey, Cannay, Harris,

wanting many of thoſe materials which induſtry in other countries renders objects of commerce, and which might be conſequently rendered ſo in theſe, by the proper application of the ſame plans. Encouragement will ſoon beget induſtry, induſtry improvements; and theſe will proceed with a quick pace amongſt an ingenious and ſpirited people. It is not to be expected that all or even any great numbers of theſe improvements ſhould be immediately attempted; but there is nothing more probable than that gradually theſe, and many others, which it ſurpaſſes the power of a private perſon to ſuggeſt, will take place, as opportunities offer from the propoſed alterations in the ſtate of theſe countries, and the circumſtances of thoſe who inhabit them.

In order to accompliſh ſo great and ſo deſirable a work, it will be abſolutely requiſite that the public, for its own ſake, ſhould afford its aſſiſtance; and therefore it is highly expedient, before this can be expected, to ſtate ſuccinctly the motives which ought to perſuade the particular attention of the ſtate to the reſcuing theſe iſles from their preſent low and dejected condition. It would, in the firſt place, add a very conſiderable province to the Britiſh Empire, of which though we have long had both the title and poſſeſſion, yet this has been in a great degree without utility; and, as from a long deduction of facts we have clearly ſhewn, has for near 200 years * been reported by the beſt judges a negligence equally detrimental and diſgraceful to government. By this means multitudes who have been for a ſeries of years, and if things go on in their preſent ſtate will be for ever, unprofitable to the community, might be connected with and rendered uſeful to ſociety. This is a point of infinite importance; *for whatever benefits accrued to individuals muſt at the ſame time turn to the emolument of the ſtate. On views far leſs probable, and much more uncertain*, large ſums have been ſpent, and annual ſupplies given, for the ſettling and maintaining more diſtant colonies, which having in a reaſonable ſpace anſwered our expectations, fully juſtifies the policy of ſuch meaſures, and thereby renders it clearly inexcuſable to remain blind to the innumerable advantages which *with more than equal certainty* might be ſecure to the ſtate, by taking proper notice of countries that lie at our own doors.

Harris, North and South Uiſt, are fertile, and pleaſant. If to theſe we add ſundry ſmall iſlands whoſe ſoil is equally good, and alſo ſome narrow tracts of good-lands in Jura, Mull, Sky, and Lewis, the improveable parts of the Hebrides will, collectively, be found to contain above 700 ſquare miles, or 470,000 ſquare acres, ſtatute meaſure, being equal in ſize to the county of Surrey. Still more important will the Highlands appear, if to the improveable iſlands and diſtricts of the Hebrides, we add the fertile tracts of the Continent; the vallies, glens, banks of the lakes, and other arable lands throughout that great diviſion of our iſland; the whole, at a moderate computation, containing more than 2500 ſquare miles, or 1,600,000 ſquare acres; being the dimenſions of Middleſex, Surrey, and Kent, which compoſe a twentieth part of England and Wales.

* When Scotland became no longer the reſidence of its Kings.

Extract

Extract from Mr. Pennant's Tour in Scotland 1769, *and Voyage to the Hebrides* 1772, *publiſhed in* 1774.

Jura. This pariſh is ſuppoſed to be the largeſt in Great Britain, and the clerical duty the moſt troubleſome, and dangerous: It conſiſts of Jura, Colonſay, Oranſay, Skarba, and ſeveral little iſlands, divided by narrow and dangerous ſounds, forming a length of not leſs than ſixty miles; ſupplied by only one miniſter and an aſſiſtant.

Ilay. Much flax is raiſed here, and about £2000 worth ſold out of the iſland in yarn, which might better be manufactured on the ſpot, to give employ to the poor natives, a ſet of people worn down with poverty; their habitations, ſcenes of miſery. Notwithſtanding the excellency of the land, above £1000 worth of meal is annually imported: a famine threatened at this time, but was prevented by the ſeaſonable arrival of a meal ſhip; and the inhabitants, like the ſons of Jacob of old, flocked down to buy food. The country is bleſſed with fine manures: beſides ſea wreck, coral, ſhell, ſand, rock and pit marle. What treaſures, if properly applied, to bring wealth and plenty into the iſland!

Colonſay. Their poverty prevents them from uſing the very means Providence has given them of raiſing conſiderable ſubſiſtence. They have a good ſoil, plenty of limeſtone, and ſufficient quantity of peat; a ſea abounding with fiſh, but their diſtreſſed ſtate diſables them from cultivating the one, and taking the other. Paſs by four ruined chapels; but notwithſtanding from this circumſtance, Oranſay and Colonſay might be ſuppoſed to have been iſles of ſanctity, yet from the reformation till within the laſt ſix years, the ſacrament had been only once adminiſtered.

Jona. The view of Jona was very picturesque: the eaſt ſide, or that which bounds the ſound, exhibited a beautiful variety; an extent of plain, a little elevated above the water, and almoſt covered with the ruins of the ſacred buildings, and with the remains of the old town, at preſent in a very ruinous condition.

Arrive at the burying place of Oran: a vaſt encloſure; the great place of interment for the number of monarchs who were depoſited here; and for the potentates of every iſle; and their lineage; for all were ambitious of lying in this holy ſpot. The place is in a manner filled with grave ſtones, but ſo overgrown with weeds, that very few are at preſent to be ſeen. I was very deſirous of viewing the tombs of the kings, deſcribed by the dean of the iſles, and from him by Buchanan: the former ſays, that in his time there were three, built in form of little chapels: on one was inſcribed, *Tumulus Regum Scotiæ.* In this were depoſited the remains of forty eight Scottiſh monarchs, beginning with Fergus II. and ending with the famous Macbeth: for his ſucceſſor, Malcolm Canmore, decreed, for the future, Dumferline to be the place of royal ſepulture. Fergus was the founder of this *maſoleum,*

(Boethius calls it Abbatia), and not only directed that it ſhould be the ſepulchre of his ſucceſſors, but alſo cauſed an office to be compoſed for the funeral ceremony.

The next was inſcribed, *Tumulus regum Hiberniæ*, containing four Iriſh monarchs; and the third, *Tumulus regum Norwegiæ*, containing eight Norwegian princes, or more probably vice-roys, of the Hebrides, while they were ſubject to that crown. Mr. Frazier, ſon to the dean of the iſles, informed Mr. Sacheverel, governor of the Iſle of Man, who viſited Jona in 1688, that his father had collected there 300 inſcriptions, and preſented then to the earl of Argyle; which were afterwards loſt in the troubles of the family. All the tombs lie eaſt and weſt; the head to the weſt; probably from a ſuperſtition that at the general reſurrection, they may riſe with their faces to the eaſt.

At preſent, this once ſeat of learning is deſtitute of even a ſchoolmaſter; and this ſeminary of holy men wants even a miniſter to aſſiſt them in the common duties of religion,

Cannay. At ſeven o'clock in the evening find ourſelves at anchor in four fathom water, in the ſnug harbour of the iſle of Cannay. As ſoon as we had time to caſt our eyes about, each ſhore appeared pleaſing to humanity; verdant, and covered with hundreds of cattle: both ſides gave a full idea of plenty, for the verdure was mixed with very little rock, and ſcarcely any heath: but a ſhort converſation with the natives ſoon diſpelled this agreeable error. They were at this very time in ſuch want, that numbers for a long time had neither bread nor meal for their poor babes: fiſh and milk was their whole ſubſiſtence at this time: the firſt was a precarious relief, for, beſides the uncertainty of ſucceſs, to add to their diſtreſs, their ſtock of fiſh-hooks was almoſt exhauſted; and to ours, that it was not in our power to ſupply them. The ribbands, and other trifles I had brought, would have been inſults to people in diſtreſs. I lamented that my money had been ſo uſeleſsly laid out; for a few dozens of fiſh-hooks, or a few pecks of meal, would have made them happy*.

The crops had failed here the laſt year: but the little corn ſown at preſent had a promiſing aſpect: and the potatoes the beſt I had ſeen: but theſe were not fit for uſe. The iſles I fear annually experience a temporary famine: perhaps from improvidence, or from eagerneſs to increaſe their ſtock of cattle, which they can eaſily diſpoſe of to ſatisfy the demands of their landlords, or the oppreſſions of an agent. Abundance of cod and ling might be taken; there being a fine ſand-bank between this iſle and the rock Heiſker, and another between Skie and Barra; but the poverty of the inhabitants will not enable them to attempt a fiſhery. When at Campbletown, I enquired about the apparatus requiſite, and found that a

* If ſuch be the condition of thoſe who poſſeſs the moſt fertile iſlands of the Hebrides, how great muſt be the diſtreſs of the inhabitants of the large barren iſlands, and the greateſt part of the oppoſite continent!

veſſel

veſſel of 20 tuns was neceſſary, which would coſt 200l.; that the crew ſhould be compoſed of 8 hands, whoſe monthly expences would be 14l.; that 600 fathom of *long line*, 500 hooks, and two *ſtuoy* lines (each 80 fathom long) which are placed at each end of the long lines, with buoys at top to mark the place when ſunk, would altogether coſt five guineas; and the veſſel muſt be provided with four ſets: ſo that the whole charge of ſuch an adventure is very conſiderable, and paſt the ability of theſe poor people*.

The proprietor's factor, or reſident agent, rents moſt of the iſland, paying two guineas for each *penny-land* [a ſmall portion of ground, ſo named from ſome old valuation]; and theſe he ſets to the poor people at four guineas and a half each; and exacts, beſides this, three days labour in the quarter from each perſon. Another head tenant poſſeſſes other penny-lands, which he ſets in the ſame manner, to the impoveriſhing and very ſtarving of the wretched inhabitants. It is ſaid that the factor has in a manner baniſhed ſheep, becauſe there is no good market for them; ſo that he does his beſt to deprive the inhabitants of cloathing as well as food. At preſent they ſupply themſelves with wool from the iſland of Rum, at the rate of eight pence the pound. All the cloathing is manufactured at home: the women not only ſpin the wool, but weave the cloth. This iſland, Rum, Muck, and Egg, form one pariſh. Cannay is inhabited by 220 ſouls; of which all, except four families, are Roman Catholics; bnt in the whole pariſh there is neither church, manſe, nor ſchool: there is indeed in this iſland a catechiſt, who has nine pounds a year from the Royal Bounty. The miniſter and the popiſh prieſt reſide in Egg; but, by reaſon of the turbulent ſeas that divide theſe iſles, are very ſeldom able to attend their flocks. I admire the moderation of their congregations, who attend the preaching of either indifferently as they happen ro arrive. As the Scotch are oeconomiſts in religion, I would recommend to them the practice of one of the little Swiſs mixed Cantons, who, through mere frugality, kept but one divine; a moderate honeſt fellow, who, ſteering clear of controverſial points, held forth to the Calviniſt flock on one part of the day, and to his Catholic on the other. He lived long among them much reſpected, and died lamented.

Rum. At the bottom of Loch Syrioſard, is the little village Kinloch, of about a dozen houſes. We entered the houſe with the beſt aſpect, but found it little ſuperior in goodneſs to thoſe of Ilay; this indeed had a chimney and windows, which diſtinguiſhed it from the others, and denoted the ſuperiority of the owner: the reſt knew neither windows nor chimnies; yet beneath the roof I entered, I found an addreſs and politeneſs from the owner and his wife that were aſtoniſhing: ſuch pretty apologies! for the badneſs

* See the ſtate of the buſſes employed in the herring fiſhery in page 44. Were the natives of theſe weſtern ſhores enabled to purchaſe or build ſmall ſtout buſſes for that fiſhery, the ſame veſſels would alſo ſuit the white fiſheries; and, between both, a race of hardy ſeamen might find employment throughout the whole year.

of the treat, the curds and milk that were offered; which were tendered to us with as much readineſs and good-will, as by any of old Homer's dames, celebrated by him in his Odyſſey for their hoſpitality. I doubt much whether their cottages or their fare was much better.

The little corn and potatoes raiſed in this iſland are very good; but ſo ſmall is the quantity of beans and oats, that there is not a fourth part produced to ſupply their annual wants; all the ſubſiſtence the poor people have beſides, is curds, milk and fiſh. They are a well-made and well-looking race, but carry famine in their aſpect. Are often a whole ſummer without a grain in the iſland; which they regret not on their own account, but for the ſake of their poor babes. In the preſent oeconomy of the iſland, there is no proſpect of improvement. The mutton here is ſmall, but the moſt delicate in our dominions, if the goodneſs of our appetites did not pervert our judgment: the purchaſe of a fat ſheep was four ſhillings and ſix pence. No hay is made in this iſland, nor any ſort of provender for winter proviſion. Notwithſtanding this iſland has ſeveral ſtreams, here is not a ſingle mill. The inhabitants of Rum are people that ſcarcely know ſickneſs. It is not wonderful that ſuperſtitions ſhould reign in theſe ſequeſtered parts. I muſt not omit a moſt convenient ſpecies of ſecond ſight poſſeſſed by a gentleman of a neighbouring iſle, who foreſees all viſitors, ſo has time to prepare accordingly.

Here are only the ruins of a church in this iſland; ſo the miniſter is obliged to preach, the few times he viſits his congregation, in the open air. The attention of our Popiſh anceſtors in this article delivers down a great reproach on the negligence of their reformed deſcendants: the one leaving not even the moſt diſtant and ſavage part of our dominions without a place of worſhip; the other ſuffering the natives to want both inſtructor and temple.

Skie. Meet great droves of fine cattle, on their way to change of paſture. See a ſmall quantity of very poor flax, raiſed from the ſeed of the country, a very unprofitable management. Skie is ſo divided by branches of the ſea, that there is not a place five miles diſtant from a port; ſuch numbers of good harbours are there in a place deſtitute of trade, and without a ſingle town. Reach Loch Bracadale. Exchange our horſes for a boat. Paſs over this beautiful land-locked harbour abounding with ſafe creeks. Cod-fiſh ſwarm here in the herring ſeaſon purſuing the ſhoals: a man with a ſingle hand-line caught in three hours as many as were ſold for three guineas, at the rate of two pence a-piece. Take leave of ſeveral gentlemen, who, according to the worthy cuſtom of theſe iſlands, convoyed us from place to place, and never left us till they had delivered us over to the next hoſpitable roof, or ſeen us ſafely embarked.

Skie is the largeſt of the Hebrides, being about ſixty meaſured miles long;* the breadth unequal, by reaſon of the numbers of lochs,

* Mr. Pennant muſt have been miſinformed in this particular, as appears by the lateſt and beſt maps, wherein Sky does not exceed forty-ſix ſtatute miles in

lochs, that penetrate far on both ſides. The quantity of corn raiſed in tolerable ſeaſons in this iſland, is eſteemed to be about 9000 bolls. The number of mouths to conſume them near 13000: migrations, and depreſſion of ſpirit, the laſt a common cauſe of depopulation, having ſince the year 1750 reduced the number from 15000, to between 12 and 13000: 1000 having croſſed the Atlantic, others ſunk beneath poverty, or in deſpair, ceaſed to obey the firſt great command, ENCREASE AND MULTIPLY. The wiſdom of legiſlature may perhaps fall on ſome methods to conciliate the affections of a valuable part of the community: it is unbecoming my little knowledge of the country to preſume to point out the methods. It is to be hoped the head will, while time permits, recollect the uſe of the moſt diſtant members.

Character of the Highlanders. The manners of the native Highlanders may juſtly be expreſſed in theſe words: indolent to a high degree*, unleſs rouſed to war, or to any animating amuſement; or I may ſay, from experience, to lend any diſintereſted aſſiſtance to the diſtreſſed traveller, either in directing him on his way, or affording their aid in paſſing the dangerous torrents of the Highlands: hoſpitable to the higheſt degree, and full of generoſity: are much affected with the civility of ſtrangers, and have in themſelves a natural politeneſs and addreſs, which often flows from the meaneſt, when leaſt expected. Through my whole tour I never met with a ſingle inſtance of national reflection! their forbearance proves them to

in length. Dr. Campbell falls into the ſame error; and a gentleman who furniſhed him with ſome particulars reſpecting this iſland, ſays, that he found it to be eighty miles in length!

* This remark can only be applied to thoſe who inhabit the interior parts of theſe deſerts, and depend chiefly on grazing of cattle, for the means of ſubſiſtence. Where there are no towns, arts, manufactures, harbours, or fiſheries, the people, conſequently, remain in a ſtate of inactivity. We have ſeen the induſtry of thoſe who inhabit the maritime parts; toiling and labouring by land and water, without ceaſing; while the females at home are employed not only in ſpinning, but in weaving cloaths for the family, of both ſexes. We alſo find great numbers of theſe people diſperſed over the Low Countries; ſome, in the capacity of menial ſervants; others, employed in uſeful arts, particularly at Glaſgow, and other manufacturing towns upon the Clyde, where they excel in all the domeſtic qualities of induſtry, ſobriety, and attachment to their families.

Mr Pennant ſeems to acknowledge this diſpoſition for induſtry, at the cloſe of his voyage, where he ſays, "The mighty chieftans, the brave and diſintereſted heroes of old times, by a moſt violent and ſurpriſing transformation, at once ſunk into the rapacious landlords; determined to compenſate the loſs of power, with the encreaſe of revenue; to exchange the warm affections of their people for ſordid traſh. Their viſits, to thoſe of their forefathers, are like the ſurveys of a cruel land-jobber, attended by a ſet of quick-ſighted vultures, ſkilled in pointing out the moſt exquiſite methods of oppreſſion, or to inſtruct them in the art of exhauſting their purſes of ſums to be waſted in diſtant lands. Like the taſk-maſters of Egypt, they require them to make brick without ſtraw. They leave them in their primeval poverty, uninſtructed in any art for their future ſupport; deprived of the wonted reſources of the hoſpitality of their lord, or the plentiful boards of his numerous friends. They experience

to be ſuperior to the meanneſs of retaliation*. I fear they pity us; but I hope not indiſcriminately. Are exceſſively inquiſitive after your buſineſs, your name, and other particulars of little conſequence to them: moſt curious after the politicks of the world, and when they can procure an old news-paper, will liſten to it with all the avidity of Shakeſpear's blackſmith. Have much pride, and conſequently are impatient of affronts, and revengeful of injuries. Are decent in their general behaviour; inclined to ſuperſtition, yet attentive to the duties of religion†, and are capable of giving a moſt diſtinct account of the principles of their faith.

Moſt of the antient ſports of the Highlanders, ſuch as archery, hunting, fowling, and fiſhing, are now diſuſed. The amuſements by their fire-ſides were, the telling of tales, the wildeſt and moſt extravagant imaginable: muſic was another: in former times the harp was the favourite inſtrument, covered with leather and ſtrung with wire, but at preſent is quite loſt. Bagpipes are ſuppoſed to have been introduced by the Danes: the oldeſt are played with the

an inſtantaneous deſertion; are flung at once into a new ſtate of life, and demand the foſtering hand as much as the moſt infant colony. The powers of their ſouls are ſunk with oppreſſion, and thoſe of their bodies loſt with want. They look up in deſpair at the deſerted caſtles; and, worn out with famine and diſeaſe, drop into an unnoticed grave. You degenerate progeny of hoſpitable chieftans, return to your native country; inform the people with your preſence; reſtore to them the laudable part of the antient manners; eradicate the bad. Bring them inſtructors, and they would learn. Teach them arts adapted to their climate; they would brave the fury of our ſeas in fiſhing. Send them materials for the coarſer manufactures; they would with patience ſit down to the loom; they would weave the ſails to waft your navies to victory; and part of them rejoice to ſhare the glory in the moſt diſtant combats. Select a portion of them for the toils of the ocean: make your levies, enroll them; diſcipline them under able veterans, and ſend annually to their ports the ſmaller veſſels of your tremendous navy. Truſt them with ſwords, and a ſmall retaining pay. If you have doubts, eſtabliſh a *place d'armes*, in vacant times, the depoſite of their weapons, under proper garriſon. They would ſubmit to any reſtrictions; and think no reſtraints, founded on the ſafety of the whole, an infringement of liberty, or an invaſion of property. Legiſlature has given them their manumiſſion; and they no longer conſider themſelves as part of the live ſtock of their chieftain. Draft them to diſtant climes, and they will ſacrifice their lives in the juſt cauſe of government, with as much zeal as their forefathers did under the lawleſs direction of valiant leaders. Limit only the time of their warfare; ſweeten it only with the hopes of a return to their native country, and they will become willing ſubſtitutes for their ſouthern brethren. Occupied in the ſoft arts of peace, *thoſe* ſhould extend your manufactures; and *theſe* would defend your commerce. Perſuade government to experience their zeal; and let courtly favour riſe and fall with their actions."

* The ſame obſervation may be extended to the whole Scottiſh nation, who, inſtead of inſulting ſtrangers that reſide amongſt them from England or elſewhere, pay them a more than ordinary degree of reſpect. National diſtinctions are unknown in that country, neither does the appointment of an Engliſhman, or an Iriſhman, to a place of profit or honour, give the people any concern.

† They even exerciſe the duties of religion while on board the herring fleets. Every Sunday morning the oldeſt man in each boat performs to his little audience, the part of a clergyman in, pſalmody, reading the ſcripture, and prayer. It is much to be regretted that ſo many thouſands of people thus diſpoſed, ſhould be deprived not only of miniſters, but of books on practical religion, which they are unable to purchaſe.

mouth,

mouth, the loudeſt and moſt ear-piercing of any wind muſic; the other, played with the fingers only, are of Iriſh origin: the firſt ſuited the genius of this warlike people, rouſed their courage to battle, alarmed them when ſecure, and collected them when ſcattered. This inſtrument is become ſcarce ſince the abolition of the power of the chieftans, and the more induſtrious turn of the common people.

Extract from Doctor Johnſon's Journey to the Weſtern Iſles of Scotland, 1773, and publiſhed in 1775.

I had deſired to viſit the Hebrides or weſtern iſles of Scotland ſo long that I ſcarely remember how the wiſh was originally excited; and was in the autumn of the year 1773 induced to undertake the journey, by finding in Mr. Boſwell a companion, whoſe acuteneſs would help my inquiry, and whoſe gaiety of converſation and civility of manners are ſufficient to counteract the inconveniencies of travel, in countries leſs hoſpitable than we have paſſed.

Inverneſs. We were now to bid farewell to the luxury of travelling, and to enter a country upon which perhaps no wheel-carriage has ever rolled. At Inverneſs therefore we procured three horſes for ourſelves and a ſervant, and one more for our baggage, which was no very heavy load. We took two Highlanders to run beſide us, partly to ſhew us the way, and partly to take back from the ſea-ſide the horſes, of which they were the owners. One of them was a man of great livelineſs and activity, of whom his companion ſaid that he would tire any horſe in Inverneſs. Both of them were civil and ready-handed. Civility ſeems part of the national character of the Highlands.

Near the way, by the road ſide, we eſpied a cottage. This was the firſt Highland hut that I had ſeen; and as our buſineſs was with life and manners, we were willing to viſit it. To enter a habitation without leave, ſeems to be not conſidered here as rudeneſs or intruſion. The old laws of hoſpitality ſtill give this licence to a ſtranger.

When we entered, we found an old woman boiling goats-fleſh in a kettle. Her huſband, who is eighty years old, and her eldeſt boy, were at work in the wood. Her two next ſons were gone to Inverneſs to buy meal, by which oatmeal is always meant. Meal* ſhe

* Meal from barley and peaſe is much uſed throughout that country, eſpecially in years of ſcarcity, when the people can neither procure oatmeal, nor afford to pay the high price it then brings. When oatmeal ſells at a ſhilling the peck, that from barley and peaſe is only eight pence. So late as the year 1750, the medium price of oatmeal was upon an average of four or five years, no more than ſeven pence the peck; it hath ſince riſen gradually to the average price of one ſhilling, and was in 1782 at the high price of one ſhilling and tenpence.

ſhe conſidered as expenſive food, and told us, that in ſpring, when the goats gave milk, the children could live without it. With the true paſtoral hoſpitality, ſhe aſked us to ſit down and drink whiſky. She is religious, and though the kirk is four miles off, probably eight Engliſh miles, ſhe goes thither every Sunday. We gave her a ſhilling, and ſhe begged ſnuff; for ſnuff is the luxury of a Highland cottage.

Fort Auguſtus, to Sky. The country is totally diveſted of its wood, but the ſtumps both of oaks and firs, which are ſtill found, ſhew that it has been once a foreſt of large timber. From our landlord at Anoch we firſt heard of the general diſſatisfaction, which is now driving the Highlanders into the other hemiſphere; and when I aſked him whether they would ſtay at home, if they were well treated, he anſwered with indignation, that no man willingly left his native country. Of the farm, which he himſelf occupied, the rent had, in twenty-five years, been advanced from five to twenty pounds, which he found himſelf ſo little able to pay, that he would be glad to try his fortune in ſome other place. Yet he owned the reaſonableneſs of raiſing the highland rents in a certain degree, and declared himſelf willing to pay ten pounds for the ground which he had formerly had for five *.

We had, by the direction of the officers at Fort Auguſtus, taken bread for ourſelves, and tobacco for thoſe Highlanders who might ſhow us any kindneſs. We were now at a place (Glenſheals) where we could obtain milk, but muſt have wanted bread if we had not brought it. A woman, whoſe hut was diſtinguiſhed by greater ſpaciouſneſs, brought out ſome pails of milk. The villagers gathered about us in conſiderable numbers. When our meal was over, Mr. Boſwell ſliced the bread, and divided it amongſt them, as he ſuppoſed them never to have taſted a wheaten loaf before. The woman whoſe milk we drank, ſeemed unwilling to take any price, but being preſſed to make a demand, at laſt named a ſhilling. One of the by-ſtanders, as we were told afterwards, adviſed her to aſk for more, but ſhe ſaid a ſhilling was enough. We gave her half a crown, and I hope got ſome credit by our behaviour; for the company ſaid, if our interpreters did not flatter us, that they had not ſeen ſuch a day ſince the old laird of Macleod paſſed through their country. At Glenelg, where the negative catalogue of proviſions was very copious, we had an eminent proof of Highland hoſpitality. Along ſome miles of the way, in the evening a gentleman's ſervant had kept us company on foot with very little no-

tenpence. As oatmeal is the general food of the great body of the people in that kingdom, its price ſhould be ſo regulated as not to diſcourage manufactures and commerce. In this view, the medium price ſhould not exceed nine, or at moſt, tenpence.

* Were there towns or markets in the Highlands, the plea for raiſing rents fourfold might have ſome foundation in equity; but as there are no towns throughout theſe extenſive and barren regions, an augmentation of cent. per cent. upon rents, in the ſpace of twenty years, ought to ſatisfy any man who is endued with reaſon, or the common feelings of humanity.

tice on our part. He left us near Glenelg, and we thought on him no more till he came to us again, in about two hours, with a preſent from his maſter of rum and ſugar. The man had mentioned his company; and the gentleman, whoſe name, I think, is Gordon, well knowing the penury of the place, had this attention to two men, whoſe names perhaps he had not heard, by whom his kindneſs was not likely to be ever repaid, and who could be recommended to him only by their neceſſities.

Sky. Armidel, the reſidence of Sir Alexander Macdonald, is a neat houſe, with a wall'd orchard, ſhaded by tall aſh-trees of a ſpecies uncommonly valuable. This plantation deſerves attention, becauſe it proves that the preſent nakedneſs of the Hebrides is not wholly the fault of nature.

From Armidel we came at night to Coriatachan, the reſidence of Mr. Mackinnon, by whom we were treated with very liberal hoſpitality, among a more numerous and elegant company than it could have been ſuppoſed eaſy to collect. The weather was next day too violent for the continuation of our journey; but we had no reaſon to complain of the interruption. We ſaw in every place, what we chiefly deſired to know, the manners of the people. We had company, and, if we had choſen retirement, we might have had books. I never was in any gentleman's houſe of the Highlands where I did not find books in more languages than one. Literature is not neglected by the higher ranks of the Hebridians.

At the tables where a ſtranger is received, neither plenty nor delicacy is wanting. Not long after the morning dram, may be expected the breakfaſt, a meal in which the Scots, whether of the Lowlands or Mountains, muſt be confeſſed to excel us. The tea and coffee are accompanied not only with butter, but with honey, conſerves, and marmalades. If an epicure could remove by a wiſh, in queſt of ſenſual gratifications, wherever he had ſupped he would breakfaſt in Scotland. A dinner in the weſtern iſlands differs very little from a dinner in England. Their ſuppers are, like their dinners, various and plentiful. The table is always covered with elegant linen. At the firſt intermiſſion of the ſtormy weather we were informed that the boat, which was to convey us to the iſland of Raaſay, attended us on the coaſt. We had from this time our intelligence facilitated, and our converſation enlarged, by the company of Mr. Macqueen, miniſter of a pariſh in Sky, whoſe knowledge and politeneſs gave him a title equally to kindneſs and reſpect, and who, from this time, never forſook us till we were preparing to leave Sky, and the adjacent places.

When we came near Raaſay, we ſaw the laird's houſe, a neat modern fabric, and found Mr. Macleod, the proprietor of the iſland, with many gentlemen, expecting us on the beach. Our reception exceeded our expectations. We found nothing but civility, elegance, and plenty. After the uſual refreſhments, and the uſual converſation, the evening came upon us. The carpet was then rolled off the floor: the muſician was called, and the whole company was invited to dance, nor did ever fairies trip it with greater

greater alacrity. When it was time to ſup, the dance ceaſed, and ſix and thirty perſons ſat down to two tables in the ſame room. After ſupper the ladies ſung Erſe ſongs, to which I liſtened as an Engliſh audience to an Italian opera, delighted with the ſound of words which I did not underſtand. The ladies not thinking themſelves equal to the work of tranſlating the ſongs, I enquired the ſubjects, and was told of one, that it was a love ſong, and of another, that it was a farewell compoſed by one of the Iſlanders that was going, in this epidemical fury of emigration, to ſeek his fortune in America.

The family of Raaſay conſiſts of the laird, three ſons, and ten daughters. For the ſons there is a tutor in the houſe, and the lady is ſaid to be very ſkilful and diligent in the education of her girls. More gentleneſs of manners, or a more pleaſing appearance of domeſtick ſociety, is not found in the moſt poliſhed countries *.

This iſland is like the other iſlands, I think, generally naked of ſhade, but it is naked by neglect; for the laird has an orchard, and very large trees grow about his houſe. Near the houſe at Raaſay is a chapel unroofed and uſeleſs; through the four iſlands which we viſited, we neither ſaw nor heard of any houſe of prayer, except in Sky, that was not in ruins. If the remembrance of papal ſuperſtition is obliterated, the monuments of papal piety are likewiſe effaced. The want of churches is not the only impediment to piety; there is likewiſe a want of miniſters. A pariſh often contains more iſlands than one; and each iſland can have the miniſter only in its own turn. At Raaſay they had, I think, a right to ſerve only every third Sunday. All the proviſion made by the preſent eccleſiaſtical conſtitution, for the inhabitants of about a hundred ſquare miles †, is prayers and ſermon in a little room, once in three weeks: and even this parſimonious diſtribution is at the mercy of the weather: and in thoſe iſlands where the miniſter does not reſide, it is impoſſible to tell how many weeks or months may paſs without any public exerciſe of religion.

At Taliſker in Sky, we very happily met Mr. Duncan Maclean, a young gentleman, the eldeſt ſon of the laird of Col, heir to a very great extent of land, and ſo deſirous of improving his inheritance, that he ſpent a conſiderable time among the farmers of Hertfordſhire and Hampſhire, to learn their practice. He worked with his own hands at the principal operations of agriculture, that he might not deceive himſelf by a falſe opinion of ſkill, which if he ſhould find it deficient at home, he had no means of completing. If the world has agreed to praiſe the travels and manual labours of

* The circumſtantial deſcription here tranſcribed of high-life, in Sky and Raaſay, may ſerve for that of the whole Hebrides, as related by our learned traveller. He every where meets with the ſame manners, politeneſs, and hoſpitality, among the gentry, and the few clergymen with whom he converſed. Of the latter he ſpeaks with particular reſpect, and ſeems to regret that men, in whom are combined the gentleman, the chriſtian, and faithful paſtor, ſhould profeſs modes of religious worſhip different from the church of England.

† Raaſay is twelve miles in length, three in breadth, and contains near one thouſand inhabitants.

the Czar of Muſcovy, let Mr. Maclean of Col have his ſhare of the like applauſe, in the proportion of his dominions to the Empire of Ruſſia. He has introduced into the iſland the culture of turnips, of which he has a field, where the whole work was performed by his own hand. His intention is to provide for his cattle in the winter. This innovation was conſidered by a gentleman of the neighbourhood as the idle project of a young head, heated with Engliſh fancies; but he has now found that turnips will really grow, and that hungry ſheep and cows will really eat them. By ſuch acquiſitions as theſe, the Hebrides may in time riſe above their annual diſtreſs. Wherever heath will grow, there is reaſon to think ſomething better may draw nouriſhment; and by trying the production of other places, plants will be found ſuitable to every ſoil *.

Col. Wherever we rode over the iſland of Col, we were pleaſed to ſee the reverence with which the people regarded the young laird. He did not endeavour to dazzle them by any magnificence of dreſs; his only diſtinction was a feather in his bonnet; but as ſoon as he appeared, they forſook their work and cluſtered about him: he took them by the hand, and they ſeemed mutually delighted. He has the proper diſpoſition of a chieftan, and ſeems deſirous to continue the cuſtom of his houſe. The bagpiper played regularly, when dinner was ſerved, whoſe perſon and dreſs made a good appearance, and he brought no diſgrace upon the family of Rankin, which has long ſupplied the lairds of Col with hereditary muſick.

A country that has no money, is by no means convenient for beggars, yet here are ſome who wander from iſland to iſland. We had, in our paſſage to Mull, the company of a women and her child, who had exhauſted the charity of Col. Life is here, in ſome, reſpects, improved beyond the condition of ſome other Iſlands. In Sky what is wanted can only be bought, as the arrival of ſome wandering pedlar may afford an opportunity. But in Col, there is a ſtanding ſhop, and in Mull † there are two. I have in Sky had ſome difficulty to find ink for a letter; and if a woman breaks her needle, the work is at a ſtop. There is not in the weſtern iſlands any collection of buildings that can make pretenſions to be called a town, except in the iſle of Lewis, which I have not ſeen. If Lewis is diſtinguiſhed by a town, Col has alſo ſomething peculiar. The young laird has attempted what no iſlander perhaps ever thought on. He has begun a road capable of a wheel-carriage. He has carried it about a mile, and will continue it by annual elongation from his houſe to the harbour ‡.

Mull.

* In many parts the heath grows to the height of three feet, a certain indication of an improveable ſoil. See experiments on heathy ſoils, by Mr. Barclay of Uric near Aberdeen. *Pennant's Tour* 1772, vol. 2. page 152.

† An iſland 35 miles in length, containing 5000 inhabitants.

‡ This gentleman never forſook the Doctor and Mr. Boſwell, till he had lodged them under the hoſpitable roof of his chief, Sir Allan Maclean of Mull. At this place Sir Allan, at the requeſt of his gueſts, agrees to accompany them to the famous iſland of Jona, which lies at no great diſtance. Juſt as the company

Mull. This iſland had ſuffered like Sky by the black winter of 1771. Where the climate is unkind, and the ground penurious, ſo that the moſt fruitful years produce only enough to maintain themſelves; where life unimproved, and unadorned, fades into ſomething little more than naked exiſtence, and every one is buſy for himſelf, without any arts by which the pleaſures of others may be increaſed, if to the daily burden of diſtreſs any additional weight be added, nothing remains but to deſpair and die. In Mull the diſappointment of a harveſt, or a murrain, among the cattle, cuts off the regular proviſion; and they who have no manufactures can purchaſe no part of the ſuperfluities of other countries. The conſequence of a bad ſeaſon, is here not ſcarcity but emptineſs; and they whoſe plenty was barely a ſupply of natural and preſent need, when that ſlender ſtock fails, muſt periſh with hunger.

To this ſhort abſtract, we ſhall ſubjoin the doctor's humane, and ſenſible reflections on the preſent ſpirit of emigration. There ſeems now (ſays he), whatever be the cauſe, to be through a great part of the Highlands a general diſcontent. That adherence, which was lately profeſſed by every man to the chief of his name, has now little prevalence; and he that cannot live as he deſires at home, liſtens to the tale of fortunate iſlands, and happy regions, where every man may have land of his own, and eat the product of his labour without a ſuperior.

Thoſe who have obtained grants of American lands, have, as is well known, invited ſettlers from all quarters of the globe; and among other places, where oppreſſion might produce a wiſh for new habitations, their emiſſaries would not fail to try their perſuaſions in the iſles of Scotland, where, at the time when the clans were newly diſmiſſed from their chiefs, and exaſperated by unprecedented exactions, it is no wonder that they prevailed.

Whether the miſchiefs of emigration were immediately perceived, may be juſtly queſtioned. They who went firſt, were probably ſuch as could beſt be ſpared; but the accounts ſent by the earlieſt adventures, whether true or falſe, inclined many to follow them; and whole neighbourhoods formed parties for removal; ſo that departure from their native country is no longer exile. But ſome relate that theſe adventurous viſitants of unknown regions, after a voyage, paſſed in dreams of plenty and felicity, are diſperſed at laſt upon a ſylvan wilderneſs, where their firſt years muſt be ſpent in toil, to clear the ground which is afterwards to be tilled, and that the whole effect of their undertaking is only more fatigue and equal ſcarcity.

pany was ready to embark, "we now parted, ſays the doctor, from the young laird of Col, who had treated us with ſo much kindneſs, and concluded his favours by conſigning us to Sir Allan. Here we had the laſt embrace of this amiable man, who, while theſe pages were preparing to atteſt his virtues, periſhed in the paſſage between Ulva and Inch Kenneth."

Some

Some method to ſtop this epidemick deſire of wandering, which ſpreads its cantagion from valley to valley, deſerves to be ſought with great diligence. In more fruitful countries, the removal of one, only makes room for the ſucceſſion of another: but in the Hebrides, the loſs of an inhabitant leaves a laſting vacuity; for nobody born in any other parts of the world will chooſe this country for his reſidence; and an iſland once depopulated will remain a deſert, as long as the preſent facility of travel gives every one, who is diſcontented and unſettled, the choice of his abode.

Let it be inquired, whether the firſt intention of thoſe who are fluttering on the wing, and collecting a flock that they may take their flight, be to attain good, or to avoid evil. If they are diſſatisfied with that part of the globe which their birth has alloted them, and reſolve not to live without the pleaſures of happier climates, I know not by what eloquence they can be perſuaded, or by what offers they can be hired to ſtay.

But if they are driven from their native country by poſitive evils, and diſguſted by ill-treatment, real or imaginary, it were fit to remove their grievances, and quiet their reſentment. That they may not fly from the increaſe of rent, I know not whether the general good does not require that the landlords be, for a time, reſtrained in their demands, and kept quiet by penſions proportionate to their loſs *.

To hinder inſurrection by driving away the people, and to govern peaceably, by having no ſubjects, is an expedient that argues no great profundity of politicks, To ſoften the obdurate, to convince the miſtaken, to mollify the reſentful, are worthy of a ſtateſman; but it affords a legiſlator little ſelf-applauſe to conſider, that where there was formerly an inſurrection, there is now a wilderneſs.

* This would prove only a temporary remedy at beſt, for ſo ſoon as the penſions were diſcontinued, ſo ſoon would the rents be raiſed, and all the money thus expended, would be loſt entirely to the public, without having produced any permanent effect. It would be better to ſtrike at the evil at once, by bringing theſe people nearer to the Low Countries, by eſtabliſhing marts where they might ſell their cattle, foul, fiſh, and the produce of their induſtry; where, in return they could ſupply themſelves with neceſſaries for the fiſheries, and proviſion for the winter; where alſo, they would have opportunities of attending the duties of religion, a circumſtance of greater force amongſt a religious people than may be imagined, and which would almoſt extinguiſh the deſire of quitting their native country. Let, therefore, the money which the doctor propoſes to grant in penſions, be thus appropriated to more valuable purpoſes, and emigration will no longer deſolate the land.

N° II.

Remarks on the *Short Tour of Scotland*, comprehending the Southern Diviſion of that Kingdom, and a conſiderable Portion of the Highlands.

AMONG the benefits ariſing from turnpike roads, is that of travelling for health or pleaſure over this extenſive and beautiful Iſland. It is an amuſement by which an overgrown, luxurious capital, diſtributes a portion of its ſuperfluous riches through eighty-five counties, and an incredible number of villages, ſome of whom conſider the money thus acquired, as their ſtaple or main ſupport.

On the other hand, the traveller finds his curioſity gratified, his knowledge extended, or his health reſtored; while the ſcenes of penury and diſtreſs which often preſent themſelves to view, eſpecially in the countries which we have been deſcribing, will, in the compariſon, impreſs his heart with gratitude towards the Deity, and teach him a leſſon of contentment, which, till then, he poſſibly never had the pleaſure of enjoying ſo completely.

Thus travelling diffuſes reciprocal benefits, from the centre, to the moſt remote corners of Britain; and with a view to this important end, I have drawn up the following Remarks upon that part of the road which is leaſt known, though not the leaſt conducive to health, as all thoſe who have made the experiment, readily acknowledge.

Travelling in the Highlands of Scotland, is no longer attended with the dangers and inſurmountable difficulties; the want of neceſſaries, and other inconveniencies, which deterred our anceſtors from viſiting theſe mountainous wilds. The people are ſtudious to oblige. Proviſions, eſpecially fiſh, tame and wild fowl; ſmall, but delicate beef, mutton and lamb, are plenty, to thoſe who can afford to pay for them; wines, and ſpirituous liquors, are yet unadulterated in that country; bed, and table linen, far exceed the expectations of every ſtranger; but theſe obſervations are only applicable to the main roads, which are now generally accommodated with carriages.

The beſt ſeaſon for an excurſion into Scotland, is, from the middle of May, till the firſt of Auguſt. The weather is then generally dry and clear, a circumſtance of the firſt importance to thoſe who travel either for health or pleaſure. The glory of Scotland is its picturesque views, and romantic ſcenery, which, to explore with ſatisfaction, requires both a clear ſky, and ample time; whoever hurries along in a cloſe carriage, arriving late, and ſetting out early, muſt return with a very ſuperficial knowledge of the country, and the manners of the people.

There are three roads which lead from England to Edinburgh; that by Berwic, on the eaſt; Wooler in the centre; and Carliſle on the weſt.

Berwick, is ſituated on the north ſide of the Tweed 335 miles from London, and 53 from Edinburgh. After paſſing through an improvable country called the Merſe, the traveller arrives at Coldingham moor, the eaſtern extremity of a ridge of hills, which, under various names, extends from Coldingham to the Firth of Clyde, on the weſt, thereby croſſing the kingdom from ſea to ſea, and dividing the ſouth of Scotland into two parts. No traveller can therefore reach Edinburgh or Glaſgow, without paſſing theſe hills; but the trouble of aſcending them is amply repaid by the grandeur of the proſpects which they command, in the deſcent northwards.

At the diſtance of twelve miles from Berwick, the road takes a ſlanting, north-weſt direction, on the declivity of the hills, and gradually opens a moſt extenſive view of the north-coaſt, as far as the promontory of Red Head, in the Shire of Angus. That diſtant proſpect is, however, ſoon intercepted by the coaſt of Fife, which ſtretches along the north ſide of the Forth, as far inland as the eye can perceive. The entrance of that noble river is diſtinguiſhed, on the north ſide, by the Iſle of May, and on the ſouth, by the Baſs iſland, a rock of conſiderable height, and covered with an incredible number of Solan geeſe. The Forth, though only nine miles wide at its entrance, expands within to eighteen miles; contracts at Edinburgh, to five miles; and, at the Queen's Ferry above Edinburgh, to two miles; widens again to near four miles, which it holds for a conſiderable extent; is navigable for merchant men as high as Aloa, fifty miles from the ſea; and for coaſters, as far as Stirling. The Forth was, antiently, the chief ſcene of commerce and navigation in Scotland, and it is, conſequently, lined with towns, ſome in ruins, and others beginning to reſume the appearance of buſineſs. The gentlemens ſeats, on both ſides of the river, are numerous, large, and ſtrongly built.

We muſt now return to our traveller, who, by this time, is contemplating the paſs of the Tees, a deep chaſm or glen, over which a bridge of 130 feet in height is now building by ſubſcription. A pleaſant, fertile, and populous country, called the Lothians, now opens on every ſide, through which, a ſtraight, level road of thirty-five miles leads to Edinburgh. The old cuſtom of encloſing with ſtone dikes begins to be exploded by gentlemen who have any regard to the ornament of their country, the warmth of the grounds, or the protection of the cattle, from the piercing winds of winter, and the flies in ſummer *. Hedge rows interſperſed with ſpiral trees, as beech, larches, aſpine, and Luckcombe oak, † would be incomparably preferable, in reſpect of beauty, utility, and duration.

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, being environed on the eaſt ſide with hills, no appearances of the city are diſcovered till the traveller hath arrived at the baſe of Arthur's ſeat, where he

* To the want of ſhade, as well as the want of graſs, is owing the leanneſs of the black cattle in Scotland. In very hot weather they run from place to place during the greateſt part of the day, and thus waſte themſelves.

† See a full account of this tree in Dodſley's Annual Regiſter, vol. 6. page 107.

finds himſelf at once amidſt ſmoke and buſineſs. This city conſiſts chiefly of one regular, well-built ſtreet, extending in a north-weſt direction, the length of an Engliſh mile; and riſing, in a gradual aſcent, upon the ſummit of a hill, which terminates in a perpendicular rock, whereon the caſtle is built.

The houſes in the main ſtreet are generally five or ſix ſtories high in front, and from ſix to ten ſtories backwards, owing to the rapid declivity of the hill on both ſides of the ſtreet; the whole town exhibiting, at a diſtance, the appearance of vaſt buildings, crowding for protection under the wings of the caſtle, which riſes majeſtically to the height of 300 feet, overlooks the whole city, and commands an extenſive view of the river Forth, and the adjacent countries.

The views from Edinburgh are its glory; as its incommodious buildings, its narrow dirty lanes (there called cloſes), are its diſgrace. On the north-eaſt ſide of the town is the Calton hill, affording a variegated, and moſt enchanting proſpect; but theſe are loſt in the compariſon with what Arthur's ſeat commands. This hill riſes from the lower end of the town, to the height of 656 feet, being nearly double the height of the croſs on the top of St. Paul's London, which is 340 feet.

Edinburgh is ſituated on the ſouth ſide of the Forth, at the diſtance of two ſhort miles, and hath thereby the benefit of ſea breeze, which, in winter, blow pretty freſh on a city of ſuch elevation. The deſcent on the north ſide, terminates in a narrow valley, formerly a ſheet of water, called the north Loch. It extends the whole length of the town from eaſt to weſt, and is bounded on the north by a riſing ground, now connected with the city by a magnificent bridge, whoſe centre arch is ninety feet high.

This high ground ſtretches in a parallel direction with Edinburgh; it is a mile in length, flat on the ſummit, and hath a gentle deſcent on each ſide. Nature could not have formed a place more ſuitable for enlarging an over-crouded city; and, conſequently, the magiſtrates in 1767, formed the out-lines of a new town, upon a regular plan of architecture. The houſes were to be of ſtone and ſlate; commodious, elegant, uniform, and the height limited to three ſtories. The ſtreets were to be from 90 to 120 feet wide, perfectly ſtraight, and to croſs each other at right angles. The north Loch, at preſent an unwholeſome quagmire, was to be formed into a canal, bordered by a terrace walk, and the aſcent to the new town ornamented with ſhrubberies, &c. A plan of this intended ſeat of elegance was publiſhed on copper plate, and lots of ground were immediately taken by the nobility, gentry, and principal inhabitants, upon building leaſes.

Thus far the buſineſs was conducted with taſte and judgment. "But when gentlemen had begun to build elegant houſes on the faith of the new plan, they were ſurpriſed to find the ſpot, appointed for terraces and a canal, beginning to be covered with mean irregular buildings, and work-houſes for tradeſmen." Thus the magiſtrates, not contented with an increaſe of revenue both ſudden

and

and unexpected, had nearly ruined the town, by deviating from the elegant plan which they themſelves had publiſhed. The conſequence was a ſuit before the houſe of peers, in which the Magiſtrates were caſt, with loſs and diſgrace; beſides the mortification of having the management of this buſineſs transferred to the hands of the Lord Preſident of the Court of Seſſion, and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

The raiſing of this new city upon the moſt magnificent deſign, is a matter of the greateſt conſequence to the whole nation, as it will draw a reſort of company, and conſequently an influx of money, to that inpoveriſhed part of the iſland. Of this, there is not the ſmalleſt doubt; for, notwithſtanding ſome deformities, owing to the taſteleſs abſurdities of the magiſtrates, it ſurpaſſes, upon the whole, any pile of buildings in theſe kingdoms, of the ſame extent.

One half of the high ground is already covered; and, in a few years, the whole will be engaged. The original plan, which was drawn by an ingenious architect, is ſo judicious in all its parts, as to preclude the poſſibility of improvement thereon, one inſtance excepted, which experience hath pointed out to be highly expedient.

The main ſtreets, which run the whole length of the town, from eaſt to weſt, are three; viz. Prince's-ſtreet, which, having a ſouthern aſpect, faces the old town; Queen-ſtreet, which, having a northern aſpect, faces the river Forth: and George ſtreet in the centre. The firſt and laſt mentioned ſtreets conſiſt of one row of houſes only; conſequently, the very elevated, and open ſituation of thoſe ſtreets, expoſe the inhabitants to the cutting winds, and violent ſtorms, of that northern climate.

As a remedy to this inconvenience, let the deſcent from thoſe ſtreets be planted with quick growing ſpiral trees, of the moſt ornamental ſpecies; theſe, in a few years, will riſe above the level of the ſtreets, and gradually ſcreen the firſt ſtories; while the ſummit may be planted with double rows of trees, ſo as to protect the upper ſtories of the houſes from the cold blaſts of winter, and afford a moſt agreeable ſhade in ſummer. Trees, thus diſpoſed, will correct the air, embelliſh the town, and form a convenient, healthful walk to the inhabitants. All ſchemes of covering the open ſide of theſe ſtreets with houſes, or ſhops, to the height of one ſtory, as propoſed by an anonymous writer, ought to be conſidered as the deluſive projects of intereſted perſons, more attentive to private views, than the ornament, and benefit of their country.

As this new town is circumſcribed on every ſide, excepting the north, it would be expedient in the magiſtrates to have a view to the purchaſe of lands towards the Forth, and Leith water, whereon to mark the lines of regular ſtreets, to be carried forward, in ſtraight directions, to theſe rivers. Edinburgh begins to ſurmount its misfortunes, in the loſs of the court and parliament; manufactures and commerce, the true ſources of wealth, are again reſumed, and bid fair to extend the capital as far as thoſe waters will permit.

Beſides the benefits of an increaſing commerce, this city is conſidered as the modern Athens, in politeneſs, ſcience, and literature. The writings of its profeſſors, divines, and lawyers, are every where read, and admired. In the healing art, it hath no equal. A ſeminary thus celebrated, muſt naturally bring thither many ſtudents from various parts of Europe and America; a conſideration which affords freſh arguments in favour of open airy ſtreets, and commodious low houſes, furniſhed, where practicable, with ſmall gardens.

The diſtance from Edinburgh to Perth is forty miles, almoſt due north. The firſt object that preſents itſelf is the river Forth, which may be croſſed at Leith, where it is ſeven miles over, or at the Queen's Ferry, nine miles above, where the paſſage is only two miles. Both of theſe roads unite at Kinroſs, a pleaſant town on the banks of Loch Leven, a lake of twelve miles in circumference, ornamented with woody iſlands, on one of which, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots was impriſoned by her ſubjects. Thus far the country is very fine, and well improved; conſiſting of gentle riſings, and rich crops of grain, but without thoſe hedgerows, interlined with trees, which ornament the plains of the ſouth.

From Kinroſs, the country aſſumes a mountainous appearance, very proper for ſheep, but injudiciouſly cut up, in many parts, for the raiſing of ſlender crops of grain, a cuſtom too prevalent throughout the whole kingdom of Scotland.

The deſcent from theſe hills opens a view of Stratherne, a rich valley, 30 miles in length; bounded on both ſides by verdant ſheep-walks; interſperſed with the ſeats of nobility and gentry; and beautified by the numerous windings of the river Erne. Croſs the bridge, and aſcend the baſe of Moncrief hill, commanding an extenſive proſpect of Perth, the Tay, and the Grampian mountains.

This is the ſhorteſt, and moſt uſual road to Perth; but travellers, who wiſh to ſee the remains of a city, celebrated formerly for ſcience and commerce, muſt, after their paſſage from Leith, keep along the eaſt-coaſt of Fifeſhire, till they arrive at St. Andrews, whoſe ruins, at a ſhort diſtance, exhibit a picture of Gothic magnificence, and Chriſtian barbarity.

The town conſiſted of four ſtreets of conſiderable length, and proportionable breadth, running parallel to each other, in ſtraight lines. Three of the ſtreets ſtill remain; of the fourth, hardly a veſtige is to be ſeen. Further particulars, reſpecting this fallen city, would be painful in the recital.

After paſſing through an open country of nine miles, the traveller arrives at the banks of the Tay, where that river is two miles in breadth; it widens above, to three miles; and is navigable for coaſting veſſels as high as Perth, from whence much ſalmon is exported to London. The ferry can only be croſſed after half flood, when ſtout boats are continually plying for paſſengers to Dundee, a handſome town, finely ſituated for trade, and long celebrated for the commercial ſpirit of its inhabitants, who are equally diſtinguiſhed for their taſte, in whatever relates to ornament, or utility.

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The diſtance from Dundee to Perth is twenty-two miles, through the Carſe of Gowrie, eſteemed the garden of Scotland, but which, its envious neighbours ſay, is denied fire in winter, water in ſummer, and the grace of God all the year. There are two roads through this delightful ſpot; the lower and the upper. The lower road is upon the edge of the Tay, and hath a near view of the oppoſite coaſt of Fife, which riſes in a gentle aſcent from the water, and in beauty and fertility is little interior to the northern ſhore. The upper road commands one of the richeſt views in Great Britain, and is conſequently preferred by all thoſe who travel for health or amuſement. It is carried along the margin of the Gowrie hills, whoſe ſloping ſides are every where covered with rich fields of wheat, clover, or thriving plantations.

Within a few miles of Perth, theſe hills begin to cloſe upon the river; the terrified ſtranger finds himſelf inviroued by lofty impending precipices, cloathed however to a conſiderable height with natural woods; a ſpecimen of the rude magnificence ſo frequent in the Highlands, which is now at no great diſtance.

Perth ſtands upon the weſt ſide of the Tay; it conſiſts chiefly of two handſome ſtreets; is, upon the whole, an elegant town, and admits of great improvement. Its ſhady walks on the banks of the Tay, the oppoſite hills covered with riſing plantations, the handſome bridge, from whence there is a view of an extenſive plain bounded by diſtant mountains, compoſe a juſtly admired landſcape.

But no traveller, who is not in a deep decline, ſhould leave this place, until he hath aſcended the hill of Moncrief; where, having gained the ſummit, his labour will be amply repaid. Vain would be the attempt of the moſt fertile imagination, to diſplay, by deſcription, the ſcenery which that hill commands. The ſoft, and the rude touches of nature, are ſo finely blended, that the eye alone, can delineate them.

On leaving Perth, the Grampian mountains appear in full view, ſtretching in a north-eaſt direction, from Lochlomond to Aberdeen; having in front, the valley or plain of Strathmore, of conſiderable extent and fertility; the great theatre of Scottiſh valour, in defence of their country and liberties; and is therefore ſtyled, by way of pre-eminence, *claſſic ground*. The Caledonians had long beheld, with deep concern, the encroaching ſpirit of the Romans, in Britain; their vigilance, perſeverance, and progreſſive conqueſts, from the Thames northward, till they arrived at the baſe of theſe mountains. Here the Caledonians, ſeeing themſelves inveſted by ſea and land, with a view to the complete conqueſt of the iſland, made vigorous preparations, to check the further progreſs of thoſe hoſtile intruders. Having collected the force of the nation, and lodged their wives and children in places of ſecurity, they marched forward in good order, and with a bold countenance, till they came within ſight of the Roman legions, whom they no longer conſidered as invincible. While Agricola was animating his victorious legions, exhorting them to put an end to a ſtruggle of fifty years with one great and important day, the royal Caledo-

nian pathetically addreſſed his countrymen, in a ſpeech of conſiderable length, of which the following abſtract, from Tacitus, is here inſerted, as a ſpecimen:

" Againſt their pride and ambition (ſaid he) you will in vain ſeek a remedy or refuge from any obſequiouſneſs or humble behaviour. Theſe plunderers of the earth, theſe ravagers of the univerſe, finding countries to fail them, endeavour to riſle the wide ſeas and the ocean. If the enemy be wealthy, he inflames their avarice; if poor, their ambition. Neither the eaſtern world, nor the weſtern, vaſt as they are, can ſatiate theſe general robbers. Of all men, they alone thirſt after acquiſitions, both poor and rich, with equal avidity and paſſion. Devaſtations, murders, and univerſal deſtruction, they by a lying name ſtyle *empire* and government; and when they have ſpread a general devaſtation, they call it peace. Deareſt to every man, by the ties of nature, are his children and kindred. Theſe are ſnatched from us to ſupply their armies, and doomed to bondage in other parts of the earth. Our wives, daughters, and ſiſters, however they eſcape violence from them as from open enemies, are debauched under the appearance of friendſhip. Our goods are their tribute, our corn their proviſion, our bodies and limbs their tools for the drudgery of making cuts through woods, and drains in bogs, under continual blows and outrages.

" The Brigantes *, even under the conduct of a woman, burnt their colony, ſtormed their entrenchments, and, had not ſuch auſpicious beginnings degenerated into ſloth, might have with eaſe caſt off the yoke and recovered their former liberty. Let us, who are yet unſubdued, who ſtill preſerve our forces intire, and want not to acquire, but only to ſecure, liberty, ſhew at once, in the very firſt encounter, what kind of men Caledonia has reſerved for her own vindication and defence. Here you ſee a general, here an army; there tributes and mines, with a long train of calamities and curſes, ever attending a ſtate of ſlavery. Whether all theſe are to be for ever impoſed and borne, or we forthwith avenge ourſelves for the attempt, this very day muſt determine. As therefore you advance to battle, look back upon your anceſtors, who lived in the happy ſtate of liberty; look forward to your poſterity, who, unleſs you exert your valour in this very field, muſt live for ever in a miſerable ſtate of ſervitude."

Many battles were fought in this ſtruggle between the thirſt of empire, and the love of freedom. The Roman legions, more through their military knowledge, than ſuperior bravery, generally prevailed; but the Caledonians, aided by their mountains and moraſſes, though often defeated, were never completely ſubdued. What the Romans could not, therefore, acquire by the ſword, they endeavoured to accompliſh by policy. Having ſtationed themſelves in the centre of the kingdom, as appears by the camps

* The Brigantes inhabited Yorkſhire, Lancaſhire, Durham, Weſtmoreland, and Cumberland. They made a brave defence, under Queen Boadicia, and were the laſt of the South Britains who ſubmitted to the Romans.

ſtill

ſtill viſible in the front of the mountains, they created a diſtinction between the Caledonians of the eaſt, and thoſe of the weſt ſide of the country. To the former, they gave the name of *Picti*; to the latter, that of *Scoti*. In order more effectually to divide the nation againſt itſelf, they prevented all ſocial intercourſe, fomented jealouſies, and encouraged feuds, themſelves acting as auxiliaries, as occaſions required, and prudence dictated.

When the Romans were called home, in the fifth century, to defend the centre of their tottering empire, againſt the unceaſing attacks of Goths, Vandals, and other Barbarians; the two nations of Scots and Picts, who had long been the tools of Roman policy, became, in their turn, zealous, not for freedom, but for conqueſt. Thoſe plains remained the theatres of fierce conflicts, till the middle of the ninth century, when the Scots finally prevailed, and the whole country, now re-united under one monarch, took the name of Scotland. The ſeat of government was transferred from Rothſay, Dunſtaffnage, Inverlochy *, and other caſtles of the ancient Scottiſh princes, to Scone, and its neighbourhood, as being more inviting, and alſo more centrical and commodious, for repelling the ravages of the Danes, a people who had carried terror and deſolation throughout the whole kingdom, but more particularly the eaſtern coaſt facing the Baltic. Thoſe diſtricts were, therefore, ſtill devoted to the rage of war, which was rendered more deſtructive, from the averſion of the Danes to Chriſtianity. The Scots proved generally victorious; and, at length, the invaders, tired out with fruitleſs enterpriſes, abandoned their precarious conqueſts, about the middle of the eleventh century, during the reign of the famous Macbeth. No place therefore, in Britain, affords ſo great a variety of antient remains; ſuch delicious morſels, whereon the antiquary may gratify his curioſity, and the critic diſplay his learning †.

Twelve miles from Perth, the traveller arrives at the noted paſs of Birnam wood, and muſt bid adieu, for a while, to verdant hills, extenſive plains, and populous towns. The ſcene changes inſtantaneouſly to lofty mountains, covered with heath, or natural woods; to narrow vallies, winding ſtreams, and extenſive lakes. Wherever he directs his courſe in the Highlands, he is accompanied by wood and water. Every valley (called in that country ſtrath or glen), hath its ſtream meandering from ſide to ſide, and dividing the whole into a number of little verdant peninſulas. The beds of theſe rivers, are ſand or pebbles, barely covered in ſummer, but which, during the autumnal and winter floods, ſeem ſcarcely ſufficient to contain the great body of water that rolls along with frightful impetuoſity. When, upon a thaw of ſnow, every mountain pours forth its tribute

* There ſtill remains a fragment of the caſtle of Rothſay, and a conſiderable part of Dunſtaffnage. They are conjectured by antiquaries to be nearly coeval with the Romans in this iſland. The caſtle of Inverlochy ſeems, by its architecture, to be of later conſtruction.

† They conſiſt chiefly of *Roman encampments*, at Stragethy, Ardoch, Comerie, and Delvin. *Roman highways* are alſo viſible in many parts, connecting the different encampments and the leſſer ſtations.

bute in numerous little caſcades, and every rill is ſwelled to a river, the inhabitants of the vallies ſee themſelves environed on every ſide, with impending danger to themſelves, their cattle, and their

Caledonian fortreſſes. Theſe were generally placed on, or near, the ſummits of the Grampian hills, and commanding extenſive views of the vallies underneath. They were ſurrounded with ramparts formed of looſe ſtones, having entrenchments or ditches on the outſide. Here the Caledonians lodged their women and children in times of danger, while the young and the brave gave battle to the Romans. The moſt conſpicuous of theſe poſts are at Blairgown, the two hills of Catter-thun, and Denoon caſtle.

Hiſtorical pillars or obeliſks. Theſe are both inſtructive and curious. They were erected in commemoration of ſignal victories gained by the Scots over the Danes, and are generally ornamented with a rude ſculpture, or bas-relief of men on horſeback, and other emblematical figures and hieroglyphics, which have been accurately deſcribed by the antiquaries of the laſt and preſent century. Theſe obeliſks derive a particular conſequence from their being found upon this north-eaſt ſide of Great Britain, and no where elſe. Some of theſe ſtones are erected at Aberlemni near Brechin. Other pillars of curious workmanſhip, repreſenting chariots, horſemen, human figures, animals, and centaurs, are found at the village of Meigle. The death of Malcolm II. at Glamis, is repreſented on various ſtones near that caſtle.

Round towers. Theſe are ſuppoſed to be of Pictiſh conſtruction, but their uſes have not reached poſterity. There are only two columns of this ſingular architecture in Britain, viz. one at Abernethy near Perth, whoſe height is 72 feet, and circumference at the bottom 47 feet. The other tower is at Brechin; its height is 103 feet, its circumference near the bottom 48 feet; the thickneſs of the wall at that part is ſeven feet two inches, and at the top, four feet ſix inches.

The *Palace of Scone.* Kenneth II. upon his conqueſt of the Picts in the ninth century, having made Scone his principal reſidence, delivered his laws, called the *Macalpine laws*, from a *tumulus*, named the *Mote Hill of Scone.* The ſame prince conveyed to this place from Dunſtaffnage, the coronation chair of his predeceſſors, and here it was uſed for that purpoſe by his ſucceſſors, down to the year 1296, when Edward I. of England carried it to London, to the great mortification of the Scottiſh nation. Their kings, however, continued the practice of being crowned here till the reign of Charles II. the laſt monarch who honoured Scone with that ceremony. Mr. Campbell of Dunſtaffnage, has a ſmall ivory image of a monarch ſitting in this chair, with a crown on his head, a book in his left hand; and, ſeemingly, in a contemplative mood, as if he was preparing to take the coronation oath. His beard is long and venerable; his dreſs, particularly his robe edged with fur or ermine, is diſtinctly repreſented. The figure was found among the ruins of Dunſtaffnage, and being, conſequently, engraved before the conqueſt of the Picts, it is to be conſidered as one of the greateſt curoſities now in the iſland. It corroborates the few remains of antient Scottiſh records; it repreſents the dreſs of thoſe early times; and, it diſcovers a knowledge of the art of ſculpture, wherein the Scots ſeem to have made conſiderable proficiency, of which the above-mentioned hiſtorical ſtones, are viſible proofs. Of the Royal Palace of Scone, the abbey, church, and other magnificent buildings, nothing now remains; they were completely deſtroyed in the year 1559, when there enſued, ſays Biſhop Spotſwood, a pitiful devaſtation of churches, and church-buildings, throughout all parts of the kingdom.

Birnam Wood, and Dunſinane. The place called Birnam Wood is a lofty hill on the weſt ſide of the Tay, immediately on the entrance of the Highlands. Dunſinane is a ſmall, but ſteep hill on the eaſt ſide of the Tay, on the ſummit of which, Macbeth built and fortified his imaginary impregnable caſtle, as a place of ſecurity againſt the attacks of his rival Malcolm III. No part of the building now remains; but the ditches which ſurround its area are ſtill viſible. The neighbourhood abounds in *tumuli* and other antiquities.

grain.

grain. Bridges, eſpecially thoſe of modern conſtruction, are thrown down, trees are torn away, and even ſtones of conſiderable weight yield to the preſſure of the torrent.

All the accumulating waters, from every direction, in a circuit of fifty miles, are received by the Tay; and this noble river, after collecting the various ſtreams of the centre of the kingdom, falls into the ſea below Perth. A river ſo conſiderable muſt, at proper ſeaſons, facilitate the floating of timber, from the glens, and interior parts of the Highlands; of this favourable circumſtance the gentlemen of thoſe parts ſeem now to be duly ſenſible. Its banks afford a rich proſpect of future wealth, ariſing, in many places, from grounds which could not otherwiſe be brought into uſe.

The Tay flows from the north, and receives at Dunkeld the river Bran, whoſe picturesque banks, improved by art, contribute greatly to the beauties around that elegant ſeat. The road northward, hath already been deſcribed, as an accumulating treaſure to the noble proprietor, and extremely pleaſant to the traveller. At Logyrait, eight miles above Dunkeld, the Tay and the Tumel unite their copious ſtreams. The natural beauties of this place are diſgraced by a mean village, which, though the ſtation of two ferries, hath neither inn nor ſtable.

From Logyrait northward, the fine ſcenery of art and nature continues as far as Blair, a reſidence of the family of Athole during the hunting ſeaſon.

Thriving plantations, picturesque walks, cut with great labour, expence, and perſeverance, through rocks, and impending precipices, over glens darkened with timber; a ſeries of five natural caſcades, forming upon the whole near 200 feet in height, abundantly repay the traveller, whoſe curioſity leads him thus far into the Highlands.

From Blair northward, there are two roads; one leading to the pleaſant ſhire of Murray; the other to Fort Auguſtus, and Lochaber, now Fort William. Neither of theſe roads being paſſable for carriages, travellers, whoſe buſineſs or curioſity leads them to the north of Scotland, generally go by the lower or eaſtern road through Aberdeenſhire.

Blair, is therefore, the moſt northerly ſtage of *the Short Tour of Scotland*; the traveller hath no choice of returning by another road to Logyrait; nor will he, after a ſecond review of this romantic country, be ſorry for the diſappointment. Logyrait, ſituated at the conflux of the Tay and the Tumel, is alſo the centrical point where the roads from Dunkeld, Blair, Taymouth, and other parts of the Highlands, unite. From this place the traveller now proceeds weſtward, along the north ſide of the Tay, which winds, in conſiderable reaches, through a beautiful valley fifteen miles in length, called Strathtay, abounding in grain, meadows, and plantations. The water which glides through this fine tract receives, on the north ſide, the river Lion, two miles below Taymouth, the ſeat of the earl of Braedalbane, already deſcribed, but all deſcription fails in the attempt to convey ſuitable ideas of its magnificence.

Here

Here the Tay iſſues in a copious ſtream from Loch-Tay, a lake fifteen miles in length, one in breadth, and from 50 to 100 fathom in depth. Its banks, on both ſides, are fruitful and populous: the road weſtward, is finely diverſified by the windings of the lake, and the various appearances of the mountains; ſome, impending in rugged precipices, others, riſing gradually, to a majeſtic height.

The weſt end of this lake exceeds, in the opinion of ſome perſons, all the ſcenery of Dunkeld, Blair, or Taymouth. Here the Tay, and the Lochy, ſeem emulous in diſplaying their reſpective beauties, before they are blended with the lake.

The views of theſe rivers; of the lake, the iſlands, and the towering mountains, diſcover, every where, the patriotic hand of the late earl of Braedalbane; to whoſe munificence, the public are alſo indebted for the roads, the bridges, and the commodious inns of this extenſive, but townleſs region.

Here, at Killin, the traveller may conſider himſelf in the centre of Scotland, and nearly at the medium diſtance between Dunkeld and Lochlomond, the two main openings into the Highlands, from the ſouth. The road ſtill leads weſtward, through Glendochart and Strathfillan, watered by the Tay, which hath its ſource amidſt tremendous mountains, whereon ſtands the inn of Tyndrum, remarkable for being the moſt elevated habitable ſituation in the kingdom. The waters now take a weſtern direction through the little vale of Glenurchie, till they are loſt in Lochawe, a narrow freſh-water lake, twenty-four miles in length, ſhaded on the weſt ſide with wood, and ornamented with twelve ſmall iſlands, whereon are the ruins of a convent, and two caſtles. At Lochawe, the traveller is at the weſtern boundary of his journey, and at no great diſtance from the Atlantic ocean, and the Hebride iſlands, which may be ſeen from the ſummit of the hills.

Having thus nearly croſſed the kingdom from ſea to ſea, he returns towards the ſouth-eaſt direction, and ſoon arrives at Inverary, pleaſantly ſituated on a ſmall bay, formed by the junction of the river Aray with Lochfyne. This place hath long been the principal reſidence of the family of Argyle, whoſe heroic deeds and ſteady patriotiſm make a conſpicuous figure in the hiſtory of their country. The preſent ſeat is a modern conſtruction, begun, and completed, by the late Duke Archibald, who alſo formed the deſign of an entire new town, upon a commodious, elegant plan, becoming the dignity of the capital of Argyleſhire, a country moſt admirably ſituated for manufactures and the fiſheries. Of this circumſtance, the preſent duke ſeems to be fully ſenſible; the town is rebuilt conformable to the original plan; manufactures are introduced and patroniſed; roads and bridges are every where formed; agriculture, planting, and the raiſing a better breed of ſheep, are every where encouraged.

We cannot quit this ſubject without remarking the comparative, happy ſituation of mankind, under the three noblemen, whoſe contiguous eſtates occupy the greateſt part of a tract, extending from the borders of Aberdeenſhire, to Campbleton, and the weſtern ocean.

Emigration, ſo fatal to that kingdom, and to Britain, is ſcarcely known upon the eſtates of Argyle, Athole, and Braedalbane; an infallible proof of judicious meaſures, and humane uſage.

Inverary is ſituated within a day's journey of the Low Countries; but travellers, who incline to vary the ſcene, will make a previous excurſion, for a few days, to the peninſula of Cantire. The firſt part of this journey is carried along the eaſt ſide of the peninſula, bounded by Lochfyne, as far as the Tarbat, where the neck of land is only one mile in width. From this place, the road croſſes to the weſt ſide of the peninſula, waſhed by the Atlantic, of which the traveller hath an unbounded view, there being no land between that coaſt and North-America. The ſouth Hebrides now appear at the diſtance of a few miles, ſome, riſing above the clouds; others, almoſt level with the ſea. On the eaſt ſide of the peninſula, is the opening of the Clyde, bounded, at the diſtance of thirty miles, by Airſhire, and Galloway. Nearly in the centre of this narrow ſea, the rock or craig of Ailſa riſes, in the form of a ſugar loaf, to a great height. Its inhabitants are ſolan geeſe, and other large birds, who live on the bounty of the ſea. The ſouth proſpect lays open the entrance into the Iriſh Channel, and an extenſive view of Ireland. Here, therefore, the traveller, now placed at the extremity of a narrow, but far projecting ſlip of land, hath a full view of the Atlantic, the Iriſh channel, the mouth of the Clyde, the kingdoms of Scotland, and Ireland, with the ſouth Hebrides; proſpects, eaſier to conceive than deſcribe.

The paſſage between Cantire and Caſtle Cary in Ireland, is uſually performed by ferry boats, in three or four hours; and from Cantire to the Giants Cauſeway, in the ſpace of half a day. Thoſe who chooſe to return to Inverary by water, may be ſupplied with a boat at Campbleton, a handſome trading town, lying at the bottom of a fine bay, on the eaſt ſide of Cantire. They will coaſt along the lofty iſle of Arran at the entrance of the Clyde, and from thence up Lochfyne, where they may land at pleaſure.

Impreſt with the ſublime grandeur, and vaſt expanſe, of theſe views, the traveller will now behold the beauties of the little Highland capital, with diminiſhed rapture; ſtill leſs will he, after paſſing round the head of Lochfyne, be elevated with the gloom and nakedneſs of Glencroe, the moſt neglected tract throughout the whole tour, though extremely proper for various ſpecies of planting, which would here find an eaſy and cheap conveyance by water.

Having emerged out of this ſolitary glen, he finds himſelf in view of Loch Long, a ſalt water lake, twenty-two miles in length, communicating with the Clyde, facing Greenock. This lake is the eaſtern boundary of Argyleſhire, a portion of which county, and of Perthſhire, compoſes the whole route of the traveller, ſince his departure from Dundee.

After paſſing through a little fertile tract, ornamented with planting, upon the head of Loch Long, the traveller enters Dunbartonſhire; and, at the diſtance of a mile, arrives at Eaſt Tarbat, ſituated

ated amidſt natural woods, on a high eminence, immediately above Loch Lomond, and about ten miles from its head. This celebrated freſh-water lake is ornamented with twenty-eight iſlands, ſome of them conſiderable in extent, and ſtocked with deer. It is twenty-five miles in length, and above five where wideſt. Its greateſt depth is 720 feet, where it waſhes the baſe of Ben Lomond, a mountain which riſes to the height of 3240 feet, above the ſurface of the water.

The elevation of the road, from the Tarbat ſouthward, contributes greatly to the pleaſure of the traveller, eſpecially after paſſing the point of Firkin, which inſtantaneouſly opens the wide expanſe of the lake, and all the luxuriancy of its woody iſlands, and deep indented ſhores; fertile, verdant, and every where fringed with wood. On the edge of a ſmall bay, is the ſeat of Sir James Colhoun of Luſs, who inherits, through a long ſeries of anceſtors, the greateſt part of theſe pictureſque domains.

The outlet of this lake forms the beautiful water of Leven, celebrated, in ſoft pathetic lines, by Dr. Smollet, to whoſe memory an obeliſk hath been erected on its banks, near the place where that benevolent friend of mankind firſt drew breath. This river glides in a copious ſtream over a pebbly bottom, till it joins the Clyde, five miles below. It abounds in ſalmon and trout; its banks form one continued wood, intermixed with villas, meadows, and corn fields. Here alſo, the manufacturers of Glaſgow, induced by the qualities of the water, have eſtabliſhed the greateſt bleacheries in that kingdom.

Theſe appearances announce, to the traveller, his return to the Low Countries, to which Dunbarton, an antient, decayed royal borough, is the weſtern entrance. Here the Leven, navigable for veſſels of 200 tons, falls into the Clyde, where the latter is a mile wide. At the point or angle, formed by the junction of theſe rivers, a perpendicular, double pointed rock, riſes to a great height, and hath been occupied, from the earlieſt annals of the Scottiſh hiſtory, as a caſtle, and armory. The natural ſituation of this caſtle, at the conflux of two navigable rivers, gives it a moſt extenſive and variegated proſpect over the ſhires of Renfrew and Dunbarton, which it fully commands; part of Lanerkſhire, wherein are ſeen, at the diſtance of fifteen miles, the numerous ſpires of Glaſgow; Cowal, in Argyleſhire; and the crouded ſummits of the Grampian mountains, in Perthſhire.

The road from Dunbarton to Glaſgow, though moſtly on a level, is uncommonly delightful. It is carried along the north ſide of the Clyde, and hath throughout, an extenſive view of Renfrewſhire, which forms the ſouthern ſhore. At the diſtance of a full mile from Dunbarton, commences a ridge of hills, which, under various names, extends, in a north-eaſt direction, to Stirling. Of theſe hills, Dunbuck is the weſtern extremity. It riſes immediately from the road, with ſuch awful majeſty, that romance itſelf cannot figure a nobler object. Eaſtward, the hills riſe to a ſtill greater height,

height, and are cloathed for a ſhort ſpace with oaks, which are cut down every twenty years, for the bark.

At the diſtance of three miles from Dunbarton, where the hills dip into the Clyde, barely leaving a paſſage for travellers, was begun, or ended, the famous Roman wall, vulgarly called Graham's Dyke; from Graham or Grimus, (governor of Scotland, during the minority of its prince), who, upon the departure of the Romans in the fifth century, broke through the northern barrier, drove back the trembling Britons, and recovered the ſouthern diviſion of the kingdom, which the Romans had long uſurped*.

At the diſtance of half a mile eaſtward, the road, riſing in a gentle aſcent facing Erſkine houſe, a ſeat of Lord Blantyre, aſtoniſhes the traveller with the grandeur of its views. Here ſtands Kilpatric, or Cell Patric, ſo named from its being the birth-place of the famous St. Patric, a clergyman of this place, afterwards the apoſtle of Ireland. Every real or imaginary event of remote antiquity, hath its tradition: St. Patric, while fiſhing on a ſmall rock in the Clyde, facing this place, was ſeized by Iriſh pirates, and carried to their country, where he became a great man. From this circumſtance, the rock is called *Patric's Stane*. At Dunbarton, a fair held in March, is called, in honour of the Saint, *Patric's Maſs fair*.

Hitherto the road diſplays a full view of the wide expanſe of the Clyde; the pictureſque intermixture of hills, woods, ſeats, and plantations. To the grandeur of this weſtern proſpect, a gentle elevation, after leaving Kilpatric, lays open the ſoft ſcenery of the Clyde towards Glaſgow, whoſe ſpires make a conſpicuous figure in the landſcape. South-eaſt, at the diſtance of five miles, is a full view of Paiſly, a large, irregular town, remarkable for its gauze manufactures, which adorn the heads of the Britiſh ladies, and even thoſe of Paris, as appears by the commiſſions ſent from that capital. From this hill, to Glaſgow, the road is ſtraight and level; the villas are numerous; the farm-houſes, ſmall but neat; the fields incloſed in the true ſtile of judicious huſbandry. Theſe pleaſing objects denote the neighbourhood of a large commercial city, ſtriving to correſpond, in taſte and elegance, with the beauties of its environs.

Glaſgow owes the regularity of its ſtreets to a fire, which, in 1652, burnt one third of the city, including 80 warehouſes, and the habitations of 1000 families. This calamitous event, is recorded in a letter from Colonels Overton and Blackmore, to Oliver Cromwell, and by which it appears that Glaſgow contained from 15 to 20,000 people, amongſt whom were ſome wealthy merchants.

Unfortunately for this, and all the towns in Scotland, the builders have copied the Gothic, unhealthy, and moſt inconvenient practice of the French, inſtead of the clean, the decent, and commodious dwellings of England, where the whole building is occupied by one tenant only. From this error, in the re-building of Glaſgow, that city is, at preſent, a medley of beauty and deformity. The

* From this hero is deſcended the illuſtrious houſe of Montroſe.

houſes

houſes have, outwardly, an appearance of elegance; the ſtreets are, moſtly, ſtraight and wide; but the town is diſgraced by its narrow, unwholeſome lanes, or cloſes; by the inconveniences of an over-crouded population, every houſe being inhabited by various families, and of various ranks in life. The builders had no conception of ſmall neat houſes, from twenty to twenty-five feet wide, containing a kitchen and cellars under ground; a ſhop, parlour, and yard; a firſt floor for letting out to occaſional lodgers; a ſecond and third floor for the family. Neither did they diſcover the utility of open, airy courts, and back ſtreets, for the reſidence of clergymen, lawyers, and other profeſſions that do not require ſhops.

The principal inhabitants, ſenſible of the miſtakes of former times, and willing to repair them, have lately built ſeveral ſmall ſtreets compoſed of private houſes only. Theſe dwellings are commodious, ſubſtantial, and elegant; accommodated with gardens, offices, and all the conveniences of a country ſeat. Perfection, however, is not the work of a day, or year, but of long obſervation, and gradual experience. While a ſtranger admires the elegance of theſe new buildings, he is greatly diſappointed in the appearance of the ſtreets. This is owing to the irregular poſition of the houſes, ſome, being placed forwards; others, a conſiderable way back. Neither hath any regard been paid to uniformity in the colour of the ſtone, every perſon conſulting his own fancy only, in the poſition of his houſe, and the materials of which it was to be compoſed: irreparable injuries to the elegance of the town, and will be regretted by poſterity. One ſtreet, however, hath hit, fortunately, upon ſymmetry and proportion, the good effects of which are perceivable at firſt ſight.

Nature hath been remarkably favourable in reſpect of ſituation, whereon to extend the preſent emporium and ornament of the north. The town is bounded ſouthward, by the Clyde; northward, by a gentle ridge of hills, lying in a parallel direction with that river. Theſe two natural boundaries ſcarcely admit of any miſtake in projecting new ſtreets; yet, if unaſſiſted by a ſpirited magiſtracy taſte and judgement, miſtakes may, and will happen. Every builder will conſult his own convenience; and thus a ſpot, formed by nature for health and ornament, will be obſcured, and irretrievably loſt to the community. It would therefore be expedient to lay out, upon a regular plan, the whole front of the riſing ground from the High-ſtreet to Anderſton, and even beyond that village *. A city, ſo diſtinguiſhed for the induſtry and ingenuity of its inhabitants, the variety of its manufactures, and the extent of its commerce, ſhould look forward, with an invariable view to magnificence, and national honour.

* It might be proper, for the information and conveniency of the inhabitants, to publiſh on copper-plate a handſome plan of the town, including the propoſed additions, and the weſtern environs; as far as the Kelvin, a river which, in leſs than half a century, may become the boundary on that ſide.

The

The great ornament of Glaſgow is its very reſpectable and much-frequented univerſity, whoſe profeſſors have long been eminent in the various branches of ſcience, and claſſic education. This ſeminary ſtands on a riſing ground, cloſe upon the country, and is poſſeſſed of a large garden for the conveniency of the ſtudents; adjoining to which is a botanic garden, an obſervatory, and a handſome, well-furniſhed library.

When the Romans raiſed the well-known northern barrier againſt the Caledonians, commonly named Graham's dike, they erected ſtones with inſcriptions, which denote that certain parts of the work were made by detachments of ſuch and ſuch legions. Theſe ſtones have been collected by the Univerſity, together with altars, and other monuments of Roman greatneſs, which are highly entertaining to the antiquary.

About thirty years ago, a ſon of the family, which is the head of the Clan Macfarlane, made a valuable preſent of aſtronomical inſtruments to this Univerſity. And, in 1783, Dr. Hunter, late phyſician to the Queen, bequeathed to it his famous anatomical preparations, library, and muſeum, which will be a benefit and ornament not only to this place, but to the whole kingdom.

The editions of the claſſics which were printed under the inſpection of the profeſſors, with the types of the ingenious Mr. Wilſon, and by the celebrated Meſſrs. Foulis, are held in ſuch eſteem abroad as to ſell nearly at the price of antient manuſcripts. His preſent majeſty when Prince of Wales, Archibald duke of Argyle, and many other perſons of taſte and learning, patroniſed theſe elegant editions.

Nor muſt I, as a well-wiſher to ſcience, and uſeful arts, forget to mention the apparatus for natural philoſophy in this Univerſity, it being unanimouſly eſteemed the moſt extenſive and moſt uſeful in the world. It was brought to that perfection at the expence, and by the unremitting labour of Mr. Anderſon, who not only gives lectures on the mathematical and ſcientific parts of natural philoſophy to thoſe who are deſigned for learned profeſſions, but who likewiſe gives ſeparate lectures to artiſts and manufacturers, in the moſt ſimple and engaging manner.

At the north extremity of Glaſgow ſtands its magnificent cathedral, the only entire building of that deſcription now in Scotland. It owes its preſervation to the ſpirit and good ſenſe of the tradeſmen, who in 1579, upon hearing the beat of drum, for collecting the workmen appointed to demoliſh this venerable edifice, flew to arms, and declared, that the firſt man who pulled down a ſingle ſtone ſhould that moment be buried under it. No monument hath been erected to the memory of thoſe virtuous citizens.

There are two main roads leading from this city to Edinburgh; the ſouth road, conſiſting of forty-four miles, through a level, and in general a well-improved country: and the north road, which, though fifty miles in length, is generally prefered, on account of its views, and the towns through which it paſſes, or which are contiguous.

The diſtance by this road to Stirling is twenty-eight miles, thro' a broken, rough country, very little indebted to modern improvements.

ments. The ridge of lofty, verdant hills before-mentioned bound the northern view. On the ſouth, the road is enlivened by the navigation of the great canal, deſigned to open a communication for coaſting veſſels, between the eaſt and the weſt ſeas. Next to the navigations completed by the Duke of Bridgewater, this is the greateſt work in our iſland, ſince the time of the Romans. It begins near the mouth of the Carron upon the Forth, and is raiſed by 20 locks, in a tract of 10 miles, to the amazing height of 155 feet above the full ſea mark. From thence it is carried in ſome places through ſoft moſs, in other places through ſolid rock. Beſides the locks, which are 20 feet wide, and 75 feet long, it is croſſed by 18 roads or draw-bridges; and at Falkirk, it is carried over the great road, by means of an aqueduct bridge. By the ſame kind of bridges it is alſo carried over a number of rivers, of which the water of Logie near Kirkintulloch is the principal, and here the arch of the aqueduct bridge is 90 feet wide. The canal is 56 feet in breadth, at the ſurface; 7 feet deep, and navigable for ſea veſſels of 80 or 90 tons. Its propoſed length is 30 miles, of which 24 have been finiſhed by a ſubſcription of 150,000l. beyond which the proprietors are unwilling to proceed; and the work hath conſequently remained *in ſtatu quo*, ſince the year 1775, when the people were diſcharged from their labour. It ſtops at the large river Kelvin, over which it muſt be carried, at an expence of ſome thouſand pounds; beſides nineteen locks, to convey it through a rough country, into the Clyde. The ſubſcribers, to indemnify themſelves for the large ſum already expended upon this incomplete navigation, have been obliged to levy a toll far too high for bulky goods in general, and which, on ſome articles, amounts nearly to a prohibition.

At a ſhort diſtance beyond Kilſyth, the road to Stirling takes a northern direction, and gradually opens a view of the Forth, which, from the Queen's Ferry to Alloa, hath all the appearances of an extenſive inland lake.

Stirling is built upon a hill environed with rich plains; and riſes, like Edinburgh (of which it is the miniature), in a gentle aſcent weſtward, where it is bounded by a perpendicular, lofty rock, called the Caſtle, once the ſeat of kings, and the national councils. The royal palace ſerves at preſent as barracks to a few invalids; the parliament houſe, their lumber room. This building is 120 feet in length, and of proportionable height. It hath been ſtripped, in the true Scottiſh manner, of its ornaments and galleries; the roof, unaſſiſted by the public, is mouldering away; and of the royal gardens ſome few veſtiges only can now be traced.

The views, which claim the preference, in Scotland, are thoſe from Cantire, and Stirling Caſtle; the firſt, as the reader will perceive by the map, are of kingdoms, iſlands, ſeas, promontories, and far diſtant ſhores. Thoſe from Stirling are purely inland, diſplaying all the beauties and ſoftneſs of an Italian landſcape, agreeably intermixed with ſeas, plantations, and lofty downs or ſheep-walks. Amidſt this ſcenery, the river Forth winds, in a moſt pictureſque manner, to Alloa, forming, in the ſhort tract of

ſix

ſix miles by land, a navigation of twenty-four miles or upwards. Above Stirling, the landſcape is equally engaging, if not more ſo. Here the windings of the Forth are leſs frequent, but more extenſive. This weſtern view is bounded by Ben-Lomond, and the Grampian mountains, whoſe ſummits are perceived from every direction throughout the centre of the kingdom.

The diſtance from Stirling to Edinburgh by the Queen's Ferry is thirty ſix miles. The firſt ſtage to Falkirk commands an extenſive view of both ſides of the Forth; the rich plain, called the Carſe of Falkirk, the carron manufactory, famous for its cannon, and an endleſs variety of tools and furniture in caſt iron. Near Falkirk the traveller paſſes under the aqueduct bridge formerly mentioned; and at this place alſo the canal is raiſed above one hundred feet in the courſe of a mile, by means of ten locks, and at the expence of 18,000 pounds; one of the moſt extraordinary works of art in theſe kingdoms, and which nothing but ocular demonſtration could convince of its reality. A moſt delightful journey, upon the ſouth banks of the Forth where that river is above three miles wide, leads to the elevated and magnificent ſeat of the earl of Hopeton, ſituated above the narrow ſtrait at the Queen's Ferry, and commanding a complete view of the river and its iſlands, from the ſea to Stirling.

A ſhort and pleaſant ſtage, through a well incloſed country, carries the traveller to the baſe of Edinburgh caſtle, which, though he hath lately traverſed the Grampian mountains, will command his admiration.

Travellers who entered Scotland by the eaſtern roads, through Berwic or Kelſo, generally return by the weſt, through Carliſle. The firſt ſtage from Edinburgh riſes to a conſiderable elevation above that city, and affords, at the diſtance of ten miles ſouthward, a moſt extenſive view of the Forth, the Lothians, and the country of Fife, overtoped by the ſummits of far diſtant mountains.

Here the traveller takes a final leave of the northern Caledonia; and having paſſed the narrow ridge of hills which croſſes that part of the kingdom from ſea to ſea, he is carried through a paſtoral country, amidſt verdant downs, rural ſtreams, and long winding ſolitary vales.

In paſſing theſe extenſive tracts, he will have ſufficient leiſure to contemplate the works of God as having been exhibited to his view, in a boundleſs variety of forms and appearances, and all deſigned for valuable purpoſes, which it is the buſineſs of man to diſcover and improve. This will bring to mind what hath been done, and what remains to be done; the vaſt tracts of country, yet in a ſtate of nature; the many thouſands of ſober, well diſpoſed people, who are thereby loſt to themſelves, their families and the ſtate. He will perceive that the kingdom through which he hath paſſed, its vallies, ſeas, lakes, and iſlands, is a great ſtore yet in reſerve for the aid of a diſmembered empire, in ſtrength, in commerce, and national conſequence, whenever government ſhall be diſpoſed to call forth theſe important ſources.

ERRATA.

Introduction page xii. line 15, for atack, *read* attack.
——— xvi. line 22, *inſtead of* thoſe kingdoms, *read* theſe rival kingdoms.
Page 28, line 21, *for* Sunderland, *read* Sutherland.
——60, line 38, *for* labour, *read* laboured.
——72, line 15, *for* are, *read* is.
——110, line 39, *inſtead of* magiſtracy taſte, *read* magiſtracy of taſte.

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